

October 14, 2025

The Honorable Senator Kim Ward, President Pro Tempore
292 Main Capitol Building

The Honorable Senator Joe Pittman, Majority Leader
350 Main Capitol Building

Dear Senators Ward and Pittman,

It's time to end this budget impasse.

The Commonwealth's budget is 106 days late. Last week, the House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 160, a \$50.25 billion budget, with bipartisan support. It is the second bipartisan budget passed by the House that Senate Republicans have simply chosen to ignore.

In response to the House's efforts, and instead of staying in Harrisburg to vote on SB 160, you sent the Senate home until October 20, 2005. Sending us home without a vote is a slap in the face to the counties, school districts, human service providers, and others who are struggling to navigate this unnecessary, politically motivated impasse. That is unacceptable.

We demand that you call the Senate back to session this week so the Senate can concur on SB 160 and send it to Governor Shapiro for his signature. If put up for a vote, we believe SB 160 will pass with strong bipartisan support.

Governor Shapiro introduced his FY 2025-26 budget over 250 days ago. Since then, the House has passed two budgets (HB 1330 and SB 160) with bipartisan support. Those two budgets cut over \$1.5 billion from the Governor's original proposal in February. To use a term not heard in Harrisburg lately, cutting over \$1.5 billion from the Governor's original proposal shows the House Democrats, House Republicans, Senate Democrats, and Governor Shapiro are willing to compromise.

Conversely, in those same 250 days, Senate Republicans passed a partisan budget that funds government at FY 2024-2025 levels. That budget is unserious and is at least \$2 billion out of balance. It shortchanges everyone from our students, seniors, and veterans to our school

districts, counties, and human service providers. If enacted, that budget will result in huge local tax increases. That is not “compromise,” that’s recklessness - especially with the Commonwealth sitting on almost \$11 billion that can be used to make proper investments in our citizens. It is beyond time for compromise. It is time to end this impasse.

Senate Democrats are ready to vote on SB 160. Convene the Senate so we can end this. Now.

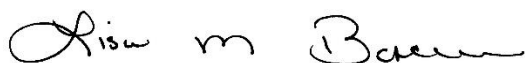
Respectfully,



Senator Jay Costa, Jr.
43rd Senate District
Democratic Leader



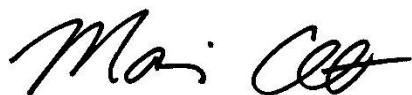
Senator Vincent Hughes
7th Senate District



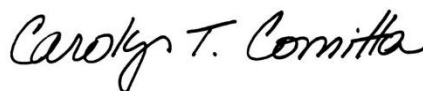
Senator Lisa Boscola
18th Senate District



Senator Amanda Cappelletti
17th Senate District



Senator Maria Collett
12th Senate District



Senator Carolyn Comitta
19th Senate District



Senator Marty Flynn
22nd Senate District



Senator Wayne Fontana
42nd Senate District



Senator Art Haywood
4th Senate District



Senator John Kane
9th Senate District



Senator Tim Kearney
26th Senate District



Senator Patty Kim
15th Senate District



Senator James Andrew Malone
36th Senate District



Senator Nick Miller
14th Senate District



Senator Katie Muth
44th Senate District



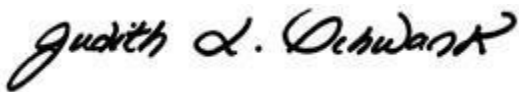
Senator Nick Pisciotano
45th Senate District



Senator Steve Santarsiero
10th Senate District



Senator Nikil Saval
1st Senate District



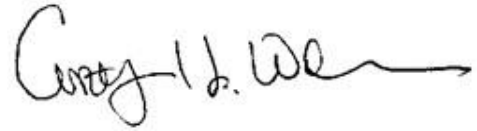
Senator Judy Schwank
11th Senate District



Senator Sharif Street
3rd Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine M. Tartaglione". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" being the most prominent part of the signature.

Senator Christine Tartaglione
2nd Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony H. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Anthony" being the most prominent part.

Senator Anthony H. Williams
8th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lindsey M. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Lindsey" being the most prominent part.

Senator Lindsey Williams
38th Senate District