

**From:** "Vestewig, Lauren J."  
**To:** "Willeford, Emily", "Hernandez, Israel", "Danforth, Melissa C."  
**Cc:** "Ulliot, Theodore W.", "Kavanaugh, Brett M."  
**Subject:** finals  
**Sent:** Wed, 20 Oct 2004 21:26:58 -0500  
[10-21 Political Briefing \(PA\).doc](#)  
[10-21 BP for Health Roundtable \(Downington, PA\).doc](#)  
[10-21 BP for Meeting with Cardinal Rigali.doc](#)  
[10-21 BP for Victory Rally \(Hershey, PA\).doc](#)

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

### **STATE ISSUES**

#### **EMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate in August was 5.6 percent, 0.3 percentage point below its peak of 5.9 percent in February 2003.<sup>1</sup> As of September 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. Overall, jobs have been returning to Pennsylvania since February 2004; it has seen an increase of 66,800 jobs since then.

#### **FEDERAL EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS**

You recently issued Federal disaster declarations covering 46 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, in response to storms that have hit the state.

#### **COMMONWEALTH BUDGET AND REVENUE**

In July, Governor Ed Rendell (D) signed into law a \$23 billion budget for FY 2005. In contrast to the previous year's budget, this budget contains no new tax increases and will maintain services for Pennsylvanians by increasing budgets for key programs. These programs include medical assistance, child care, and community mental health. The budget was passed unanimously by the Pennsylvania Senate and 193 to 8 by the House.

Overall spending will increase by 4.3 percent. A major component of the budget is a measure approving as many as 61,000 slot machines at seven racetracks, two resorts, and five stand-alone sites. Pennsylvania will be second only to Nevada with its number of slot machines. The expected \$1 billion in revenue from the slot machines will finance property-tax reductions for homeowners across the Commonwealth.

Rendell Administration officials say revenue projections are higher this year than anticipated. The Commonwealth is rebounding from the revenue shortfalls of the last two budget cycles. Pennsylvania Budget Secretary Michael Masch (D) has estimated the Commonwealth will end with a \$500 million budget surplus this fiscal year.

#### **EDUCATION BUDGET**

Pennsylvania's education system should benefit from the new budget, which raises community college spending by 5.8 percent, state-owned college spending by 4.3 percent, and state-related college spending by 3 percent. Overall, basic education subsidies for the Commonwealth's 501 school districts will increase by 3.6 percent, with each district guaranteed a funding boost of at least 2 percent. In an effort to



## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

eliminate school property taxes, the state legislature is exploring the possibility of creating a new 4.5 percent state business receipts education tax.

Pennsylvania does better than most states in college completion rates, receiving an “A” in this category on the 2002 report card. However, along with 35 other states, Pennsylvania received an “F” in keeping campuses affordable (from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in its report released on September 15, 2004).

Governor Rendell has urged leaders of Pennsylvania’s 14 state universities to forgo a 6.9 percent tuition increase, citing the 4.3 percent increase in their total funding through the new budget.

### **US AIRWAYS BANKRUPTCY**

On September 12, Virginia-based US Airways filed for bankruptcy for the second time in two years after it was unable to secure another round of concessions from its labor unions. The carrier is the largest in Pennsylvania. The company has over 3,000 pilots and 28,000 employees (including more than 8,000 in Philadelphia).

On March 31, 2003, US Airways received a loan guarantee from the Air Transportation Stabilization Board (ATSB), which was created after 9/11 to help airlines recover. The loan guarantee covered \$900 million of a \$1 billion loan. This loan, along with private financing and \$2 billion in cost cuts, allowed US Airways to emerge from its first bankruptcy. Since then, however, the carrier has not achieved its financial projections because of higher-than-expected fuel costs, intense competition from low-cost airlines such as Southwest Airlines, and a broad decline in high-end demand.

In this second bankruptcy, US Airways will likely try to terminate its remaining pension plans (its pilots’ plan was terminated in the last bankruptcy). The Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) would then take over responsibility for the plans’ payments and their massive unfunded liabilities. PBGC annual payments are capped at \$44,000, meaning that some highly compensated US Airways employees may lose some of their benefits.

On October 5, the Air Line Pilots Association, representing about 3,200 pilots, agreed to let members vote on pay, benefit, and pension concessions totaling about \$300 million per year. The ratification-voting process will not end until October 21, and



## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

union members may face temporary court-imposed cuts before then. On October 14, a Federal bankruptcy court imposed a four-month, 21 percent wage decrease on most unionized employees and approved the use of \$745 million in government-backed cash over the next three months. On October 21, US Airways pilots will vote on a \$300 million concessionary agreement that would wipe out the 21 percent wage decrease and replace it with an 18 percent wage decrease over five years. In late September, Pittsburgh union representative John Brookman stated he would not support a proposal eliminating retiree health care and reduced retirement contributions significantly. The only employees exempt are 250 dispatch workers who have already arranged a tentative \$4.5 million cost-cutting agreement.

On October 18, US Airways introduced a new February schedule. It reflected cutbacks in Pittsburgh, faster jet turnaround times, and 230 new flights out of Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Fort Lauderdale.

US Airways still needs to come to agreement with its flight-crew training instructors, flight-simulator engineers, flight attendants, and mechanics. Without substantial cost cuts and private sector investment, the airline is likely to liquidate. Recognizing the potential to gain market share, Southwest Airlines has announced plans to increase flights from Philadelphia from 28 to 41 daily flights and to add two gates at the airport.

### **FINANCIAL ISSUES IN PITTSBURGH AND PHILADELPHIA**

#### **Pittsburgh**

Pittsburgh's finance director has projected by the end of December the city will be \$8.8 million in debt. The city controller's projection is equally bleak, predicting the city will run out of money by the end of November, ending the year \$13 million in debt.

In the next few weeks, the city's fiscal oversight board is expected to issue the Legislature its long-term plan for restructuring the budget. The plan may include increasing the 10 dollar yearly occupation tax and instituting a payroll tax for businesses. If the Commonwealth does not approve some kind of tax reform, the city's Act 47 recovery team is empowered to petition the Common Pleas Court for wage taxes on commuters and city workers.

#### **Philadelphia**

In June, the Philadelphia City Council passed a \$3.4 billion 2005 fiscal year budget by a 12 to 5 vote. Council members also approved tax-cutting measures to reduce the city's

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

wage and business-privilege taxes. Mayor John Street (D) fought any tax reduction measure. After tough negotiations between Mayor Street and the City Council, some provisions were dropped, including a \$110 million business tax-cut bill. Street accepted \$50 million in wage tax-cuts and agreed to spending cuts, including 4 million dollars for the Philadelphia Police Department.

In early September, Mayor Street unveiled a \$500 million “New River City” plan to spur redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites near the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. The plan includes turning part of the Navy Yard into a mixed-use community of suburban-style homes, office parks, and a marina over the next 30 years.

### **INVESTIGATION OF STREET ADMINISTRATION**

Since October 2003, a wide-ranging investigation of city contracts and political connections involving some officials for Philadelphia Mayor John Street has been ongoing. A number of officials connected with the Street Administration have been indicted recently.

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## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

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### **STATISTICS**

#### **2000 General Election Results (Presidential):**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Win %</b>
<b>Gore</b>	2,485,967	51%
<b>Bush</b>	2,281,127	46%
<b>Nader</b>	103,392	2%
<b>Other</b>	41,699	1%

#### **1996 General Election Results (Presidential):**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Win %</b>
<b>Clinton</b>	2,215,819	49%
<b>Dole</b>	1,801,169	40%
<b>Perot</b>	430,984	10%
<b>Other</b>	58,146	1%

### **CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION**

#### **U.S. SENATE:**

- Arlen Specter (R), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected in 1998 with 61%
- Rick Santorum (R), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected in 2000 with 52%

#### **U.S. HOUSE: 19 Total (12R, 7D)**

- Robert Brady (D-01), 3<sup>rd</sup> full term, re-elected with 86%
- Chaka Fattah (D-02), 5<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 88%
- Phil English (R-03), 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-03, re-elected with 78%
- Melissa Hart (R-04), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 65%
- John Peterson (R-05), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 87%
- Jim Gerlach (R-06), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 51%
- Curt Weldon (R-07), 9<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 66%
- Jim Greenwood (R-08), 6<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 63%
- Bill Shuster (R-09), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 71%
- Don Sherwood (R-10), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 93%
- Paul Kanjorski (D-11), 10<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 56%
- John Murtha (D-12), 15<sup>th</sup> full term, re-elected with 73%
- Joe Hoeffel (D-13), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 51%

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

- Mike Doyle (D-14), 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-14, re-elected without opposition
- Pat Toomey (R-15), 3<sup>rd</sup> term, re-elected with 57%
- Joe Pitts (R-16), 4<sup>th</sup> term, re-elected with 88%
- Tim Holden (D-17), 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive term, 1<sup>st</sup> term in PA-17, re-elected with 51%
- Tim Murphy (R-18), 1<sup>st</sup> term, elected with 60%
- Todd Platts (R-19), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected with 91%

### **STATE GOVERNMENT**

Governor Ed Rendell (D), elected in 2002 with 53%

Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll (D), elected with Governor Rendell

Attorney General Gerald Pappert (R), 1<sup>st</sup> term, replaced Mike Fisher on December 15, 2003

Treasurer Barbara Hafer (D), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected, as a Republican, in 2000 with 49%

Auditor General Robert Casey, Jr. (D), 2<sup>nd</sup> term, re-elected in 2000 with 57%

**State House:**                   **203 (109R, 93D, 1 Vacancy)**

Speaker:                      John Perzel (R)

Majority Leader:           Samuel Smith (R)

Minority Leader:          William DeWeese (D)

**State Senate:**           **50 (29R, 21D)**

President:                   Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll (D)

Majority Leader:          David “Chip” Brightbill (R)

Minority Leader:          Robert Mellow (D)

### **STATE PARTY**

State Chairman:           Alan Novak

National Committeeman:   Bob Asher

National Committeewoman: Christine Toretta Olson



## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

### **STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

#### **Estimated Population 2000:**

Pennsylvania: 12,281,054, an increase of 3.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

#### **Race/Ethnicity:**

Pennsylvania: 84.1% White; 10.0% African-American; 3.2% Hispanic; 1.8% Asian

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American;

3.6% Asian; 0.9% Native American

#### **Median Age:**

Pennsylvania: 38.0 years (15.6% are 65 years and older)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

#### **College Educated:**

Pennsylvania: 22.4%

National: 24.4%

#### **Median Income:**

Pennsylvania: \$40,106

National: \$41,994

#### **Households:**

Pennsylvania: 67.2% family households; 51.7% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

*(Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau)*

### **YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Victory 2004 – Iraq Speech	October 6, 2004	Wilkes-Barre
Victory 2004 Rally	October 1, 2004	Allentown
Bush-Cheney '04 Focus on Education Event	September 22, 2004	King of Prussia
Tour of Flood Damage		Millvale
Victory 2004 Rally		Latrobe
Remarks at Byers' Choice and Victory 2004 Rally at Cambria County War Memorial	September 9, 2004	Colmar Johnstown
Remarks at Victory 2004 Rally	September 4, 2004	Erie
Remarks at Victory 2004 Rally	September 3, 2004	Moosic
Drop by Softball Game and Family Style Picnic	August 31, 2004	Gettysburg
Tour and Remarks at the Boeing Facility	August 17, 2004	Ridley Park
Bush-Cheney '04 Rally	July 31, 2004	Pittsburgh

## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

Bush-Cheney '04 Bus Tour	July 9, 2004	Kutztown Lancaster York
Remarks on AIDS/HIV Compassion Victory 2004 Luncheon	June 23, 2004	Philadelphia Villanova
Remarks on Iraq and the War on Terror	May 24, 2004	Carlisle
Remarks on the USA PATRIOT Act and Specter for Senate Event	April 19, 2004	Hershey Pittsburgh
Conversation on Homeownership and Visit with A New Homeowner	March 15, 2004	Ardmore
Conversation on Education and the Jobs for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Initiative	February 12, 2004	Harrisburg
“Congress of Tomorrow” Republican Retreat	January 31, 2004	Philadelphia
Bush-Cheney '04 Luncheon	December 2, 2003	Pittsburgh
Bush-Cheney '04 Finance Event	September 15, 2003	Philadelphia
National Urban League Conference	July 28, 2003	Pittsburgh
United States Coast Guard	March 31, 2003	Philadelphia
Roundtable and Remarks on Medical Liability Reform	January 16, 2003	Scranton
Faith Based and Community Initiatives Conference	December 12, 2002	Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Welcome	November 1, 2002	Harrisburg
Pennsylvania Welcome	October 22, 2002	Downingtown
Carpenters Labor Day Picnic	September 2, 2002	Pittsburgh
Coal Miners Event, Fisher Fundraiser and Born Alive Bill Signing	August 5, 2002	Pittsburgh
Early Childhood Education Initiative and Fisher Fundraiser	April 2, 2002	Middletown
Tour People’s Emergency Center and Conversation on Service	March 12, 2002	Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Remarks on Bioterrorism	February 5, 2002	Pittsburgh
Brownfields Bill Signing	January 11, 2002	Conshohocken
Army – Navy Game	December 1, 2001	Philadelphia
Steel Workers Picnic and Little League World Series	August 26, 2001	Pittsburgh Williamsport
Faith-Based Block Party	July 4, 2001	Philadelphia



## **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

Tour and Energy Speech at Safe Harbor Hydroelectric Dam	May 18, 2001	Conestoga
Project Safe Neighborhoods Announcement	May 14, 2001	Philadelphia
Budget Tour Stop at Control Concepts	February 28, 2001	Beaver
House Democrat Retreat	February 4, 2001	Farmington

### **THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Victory 2004 Townhall Meeting	October 18, 2004	Johnstown
Bush-Cheney '04 Townhall Meeting	October 13, 2004	Meadville
Victory 2004 Rally		Saxonburg
Bush- Cheney '04 Debate Watch Party		Coraopolis
Tour and Townhall Meeting at PLR Industries	September 20, 2004	Cornwall
Bush-Cheney '04 Bus Tour	August 25, 2004	Bloomsburg Pottsville Williamsport
Dent for Congress Breakfast	July 12, 2004	Bethlehem
Paterno for Congress Luncheon		Harrisburg
Victory 2004 Reception		Pittsburgh
Bush-Cheney '04 Bus Tour	July 4, 2004	Pittsburgh Altoona
NRA Annual Members Banquet	April 17, 2004	Pittsburgh
Murphy for Congress Finance Event	February 27, 2004	Latrobe
Lunch at the GOP Congressional Retreat and Tour of the Philadelphia International Car Show	January 29, 2004	Philadelphia
Gerlach for Congress Finance Event	October 3, 2003	Conshohocken
Citizens for Arlen Specter Finance Event	June 16, 2003	Harrisburg
Gekas for Congress Finance Event	October 25, 2002	Reading
Dedication of Huntsman Hall, University of Pennsylvania	October 25, 2002	Philadelphia
Gerlach for Congress Finance Event	July 18, 2002	Conshohocken
Murphy for Congress Finance Event		Pittsburgh
Gekas for Congress Finance Event	June 7, 2002	Harrisburg
Toomey for Congress Finance Event	April 19, 2002	Allentown
Speech to NACO	July 16, 2001	Philadelphia
Energy Town Hall		Pittsburgh



## 21 ELECTORAL VOTES

2004 – SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER (R) UP

<sup>1</sup> Department of Labor, Bureau and Labor Statistics

### **PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFING**

<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania University of Education. Conducted September 6-10. Surveyed 1,577 Pennsylvania registered voters, +/- 2.5% margin of error

<sup>3</sup> Strategic Vision Poll. Conducted October 9-11, surveyed 801 likely voters, margin of error +/- 3 percent.

<sup>4</sup> West Chester University Center for Social and Economic Research. Conducted October 1-4, surveyed 600 likely voters, margin of error +/- 4%

<sup>5</sup> Quinnipiac Poll, Conducted 9/22-23. Surveyed 726 likely voters, +/- 3.6% margin of error.

<sup>6</sup> Public Opinion Strategies Internal poll. Conducted October 10-11. Surveyed N/A, +/-N/A margin of error.

<sup>7</sup> Public Opinion Strategies Internal poll. Conducted September 26-27. Surveyed N/A, +/-N/A margin of error.

<sup>6</sup> Public Opinion Strategies Internal poll. Conducted September 27-28. Surveyed N/A, +/-N/A margin of error.

<sup>7</sup> Franklin & Marshall College. Conducted September 16-20. Surveyed 400 likely adults, +/- 4.9% margin of error.

<sup>8</sup> Public Opinion Strategies Internal poll. Conducted October 12-13. Surveyed 300 likely voters, +/-5.8% margin of error

<sup>9</sup> Morning Call/Muhlenberg College. Conducted September 27-October 3. Surveyed 440 registered voters, +/- 4.7% margin of error

<sup>12</sup> American Research Group, Conducted October 14-15. Surveyed 320 likely voters, +/- 5.5% margin of error.

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

**ROUNDTABLE AND REMARKS ON MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM  
AND HEALTHCARE**

Thursday, October 21, 2004  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
United Sports Training Center  
Indoors  
Downingtown, Pennsylvania  
Karl Rove

**I. PURPOSE**

To participate in a roundtable and deliver remarks on medical liability reform and healthcare at a Bush-Cheney '04 event.

**II. BACKGROUND**

You will participate in a roundtable discussion with four doctors and one patient who support medical liability reform. (**Note:** Roundtable participants will be seated in the audience for your remarks.)

Downingtown is located in southeast Pennsylvania, 40 miles west of Philadelphia, in Chester County. According to the 2000 Census, the borough of Downingtown had a population of 7,589, and Chester County had a population of 433,501. Chester County is considered a swing county because of its conservative residents in the rural west and its socially liberal residents in the suburban east. In 2000, you won Chester County by 18,033 votes (53.4 percent to 43.7 percent) but lost Pennsylvania by 204,840 votes (46.4 percent to 50.6 percent).

The economy in the metropolitan northeast portion of Chester County is based primarily on high-tech, pharmaceutical, and financial services companies. The economy in the rural southwest portion of the county is based on agriculture, making Chester County one of the richest agricultural counties in the country. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate stands at 5.6 percent as of August 2004, 0.3 percentage point below its peak of 5.9 percent in February 2003. As of September 2004, the national unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

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**Note:** This event is in Congressman Jim Gerlach's (R, PA-06) district, and he will attend.

**Note:** In Downingtown, a loaf of bread costs \$2.29, a gallon of milk costs \$3.09, and a gallon of gas costs \$1.99.

**Note:** Three Pennsylvanians have died serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.  
Sixty Pennsylvanians have died serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Note:** The last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania was October 4. The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 26, and the last day to submit an absentee ballot to the County Board of Elections is October 29. Pennsylvania does not have early voting.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

Barbara Bush (will introduce you for remarks)

#### Roundtable Participants

Dr. Marilyn Heine, Member, Pennsylvania Medical Society

Dr. Roy Stoller, Ear Nose and Throat Head and Neck Surgeon (Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

Dr. Nicholas "Nick" DiNubile, Orthopedic Surgeon (Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

Dr. Cecile Pileggi, Family Physician (Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

Charlene Ware (Patient Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

#### Members of Congress

Senator Arlen Specter (R, PA), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Co-Chair (will deliver remarks in pre-program)

Congressman Jim Gerlach (R, PA-06), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Vice Chair (will deliver remarks in pre-program), and wife Karen

Congressman Curt Weldon (R, PA-07), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Vice Chair

Congressman Jim Greenwood (R, PA-08), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Vice Chair

Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16), Bush-Cheney '04 State Campaign Vice Chair (will deliver remarks in pre-program)

#### Statewide Officials

None

#### State and Local Officials

None

#### Other VIPs



Skip Brion, Chairman, Chester County Republican Committee (will emcee pre-program)  
Alan Novak, Chairman, Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania (will deliver remarks  
in pre-program)

3,000 invited guests, including community leaders and grassroots activists

White House Staff

COS: Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations  
Event: Karl Rove, Senior Advisor  
Press: Scott McClellan, Press Secretary  
Staff Secretary: Brett Kavanaugh, Staff Secretary

Bush-Cheney '04 Staff

Karen Hughes  
Nicolle Devenish, Communications Director  
Scott Stanzel, Press Secretary  
Megan Hauk, Deputy Policy Director  
Guy Ciarrocchi, Pennsylvania Executive Director

IV. PRESS PLAN

Roundtable: Closed  
Remarks: Open

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Roundtable

- You and Barbara arrive and proceed to the roundtable.
- You welcome guests and begin discussion with participants.
- You conclude conversation and proceed to offstage announce with Barbara.

Remarks

- Note:** Prior to your arrival, a pre-program will have taken place.
- You and Barbara are announced on to stage.
  - Barbara introduces you.
  - You deliver remarks.
- Note:** Barbara will take her seat in the audience. Approximately 300 supporters will be seated behind you for your remarks.
- You conclude remarks, work rope line, and depart.
- Note:** You will meet greeters on departure (see attached bios).

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Background on Roundtable Participants

Background on Departure Greeters

## BACKGROUND ON ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

### Dr. Marilyn Heine [HI-nuh], Member, Pennsylvania Medical Society (Dresher, Pennsylvania)

- Dr. Heine is a member of the Board of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Political Action Committee (PAMPAC). The Pennsylvania Medical Society is the largest association of doctors in the state.

**Note:**

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- Dr. Heine is an emergency room physician at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and a hematologist and oncologist in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.
- Dr. Heine also serves as the President of the Pennsylvania chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, a 22,000 member national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine.
- Dr. Heine believes medical liability reform is vital to retaining patients' access for high quality medical care.
- Dr. Heine is married to Dr. Arlin Silberman, and they do not have children.

**Note:**

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### Dr. Roy Stoller, Ear Nose and Throat Head and Neck Surgeon (Wallingford, Pennsylvania) (Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

- Dr. Stoller has been in private practice in Chester County since 1994. He works with one partner.

**Note:** Prior to entering private practice, Dr. Stoller was an Air Force Major, stationed at Andrews Air Force Base. He also taught at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

- Dr. Stoller's medical liability insurance has been increasing over the past several years. In 2003, he paid approximately \$55,000, and his rates rose to \$75,000 in 2004. Dr. Stoller will, once again, be looking for a new malpractice insurance carrier at the end of this year because his carrier is leaving the state. He notes that, although there are six carriers in Pennsylvania, only two are writing new policies, so he will have very little choice.
- Due to fear of exposure to liability in the emergency room, Dr. Stoller has been forced to limit his practice to lower risk activities and patients. In particular, he has stopped accepting pediatric trauma cases.
- Dr. Stoller's wife, Dr. Cecile Pileggi, is a family doctor and has been forced to close her practice entirely as a result of the medical liability crisis; she will close her office next month.
- Dr. Stoller is a strong advocate of medical liability reform and believes that a cap should be put on how much patients can collect as non-economic damages.
- Roy and his wife, Cecile Pileggi, have two children: Alexander (19) and Nicholas (11).



Dr. Nicholas “Nick” DiNubile [duh-NEW-blee], Orthopedic Surgeon (Haverford, Pennsylvania)  
(Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

- Dr. DiNubile is an orthopedic surgeon and has been in a private group practice for 22 years. His practice has 15 doctors, but he has lost six partners in the last five years due to rising medical liability insurance costs.

**Note:** Dr. DiNubile is a spokesman for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and he served on President George H. W. Bush’s President’s Council on Physical Fitness.

- Every doctor in Dr. DiNubile’s practice has seen his medical liability insurance costs increase over the past few years. In 2003, Dr. DiNubile paid approximately \$85,000 for medical liability insurance. His premiums would have increased to approximately \$100,000 in 2004 (an increase of 17.7 percent) if the Pennsylvania state subsidy was not in place. Dr. DiNubile’s rates increased in 2004 even though he has never been sued for medical malpractice.

**Note:** Pennsylvania passed a temporary subsidy program to help doctors pay their medical liability premiums. The subsidy program is not a real fix to the medical liability crisis, and is set to expire next year.

- About five years ago, one of Dr. DiNubile’s partners left Pennsylvania to practice in Virginia when his premiums rose to approximately \$150,000 per year. He then paid \$8,000 per year to practice in Virginia with the same insurance carrier.
- With the loss of many of the doctors in Dr. DiNubile’s practice, he and his partners are “totally overwhelmed and working twice as hard to keep up with patients.” Patients often have to wait many weeks for an appointment.
- Dr. DiNubile notes that the financial strain on his practice due to increasing premiums has prevented him being able to recruit new doctors and increase the size of his staff, although they are overworked and desperately need more help at the practice.
- The rising premiums have also prevented him from making technological investments that would benefit his patients and the economy. He believes doctors’ offices are small businesses, and a legal system that restricts these businesses not only punishes doctors and patients, but it also hurts the economy.

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- Dr. DiNubile is a strong advocate of medical liability reform and believes that a cap should be put on how much patients can collect as non-economic damages.
- Nick and his wife, Marybeth, have two children: Emily (7) and Dylan (3).



Dr. Cecile Pileggi [puh-LEH-gee], Family Physician (Wallingford, Pennsylvania) (Doctor Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

- Dr. Pileggi is a solo practitioner family physician. She has been a practicing physician since 1987 and has been practicing in Pennsylvania for 11 years.
- Due to the rising cost of medical malpractice insurance premiums, Dr. Pileggi can no longer make a living running her family practice in Pennsylvania. She will be closing her office next month. She estimates she will be leaving approximately 5,000 patients in her area who will have to find a new doctor.
- In 2003, Dr. Pileggi paid \$4,500 for medical liability insurance. Her rates rose to almost \$20,000 in 2004, an increase of almost 400 percent.
- Dr. Pileggi has considered moving her practice to Delaware, but in order to do that, she would have to pay two fees totaling approximately \$25,000: one to the insurance company and one to the state of Pennsylvania. The estimated premiums for her to practice in Delaware, only a few miles from her office now, are \$2,100.
- Dr. Pileggi says she is one of the last independent physicians in the area because the medical liability crisis in Pennsylvania has forced most independent doctors to join large hospital corporations to share the burden of the high costs of practicing medicine today. She is not interested in joining a large practice because she feels the doctor-patient relationship patients get from seeing the same doctor every visit is important.
- Dr. Pileggi is a strong advocate of medical liability reform and believes that a cap should be put on how much patients can collect as non-economic damages. She feels as though she is “being held hostage” by the medical liability system in Pennsylvania and regrets having to close her doors, but she feels she has no other choice.
- Cecile and her husband, Roy Stoller, have two children: Alexander (19) and Nicholas (11).

Charlene Ware (Bethel Township, Pennsylvania) (Patient Supporting Medical Liability Reform)

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- Charlene says, “People who are really healthy sometimes don’t realize how important it is to have a trusting, long term relationship with your doctor, but it really is. I could talk to Dr. Pileggi like a friend, and she truly listens.”
- Charlene and her husband, Paul, have two grown daughters.

## **BACKGROUND ON DEPARTURE GREETERS**

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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA

Thursday, October 21, 2004  
2:55 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
Indoors  
Downingtown, Pennsylvania  
Karl Rove

#### I. PURPOSE

To meet with Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

#### II. BACKGROUND

On July 15, 2003, Pope John Paul II appointed Archbishop Justin Rigali as the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop and eighth Archbishop of Philadelphia. Archbishop Rigali was named a Cardinal on September 28, 2003, and on October 7, 2003, he was installed Archbishop of Philadelphia. Two weeks after his installation, he was formally elevated to a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II in the Public Consistory in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, Italy.

Archbishop Rigali succeeded Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua as Archbishop of Philadelphia.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has a Catholic population of roughly 1.5 million; 40 percent of Catholics in Pennsylvania are under his direction. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has 279 parishes, 22 diocesan high schools, and 12 Catholic colleges. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is largest provider of social services in Pennsylvania, serving over two million people each year.

**Note:** On May 18, 2004, you met with Archbishop Raymond Burke of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in the Oval Office. Archbishop Burke filled the vacancy created by Archbishop Rigali's appointment to Archbishop of Philadelphia.

#### III. PARTICIPANTS

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia

##### White House Staff

Joe Hagin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations

##### Bush-Cheney '04 Staff



Guy Ciarrocchi, Pennsylvania Executive Director (formerly Director of Public Affairs for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and served under Cardinal Rigali)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Stills at End

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive and greet Archbishop Rigali.
- You meet with Archbishop Rigali.  
**Note:** Still photographers are escorted in to the meeting.
- You conclude meeting and depart.

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENT

Biography of Archbishop Justin Rigali

## **BIOGRAPHY OF ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN RIGALI**

On January 25, 1994, Pope John Paul II appointed Justin Rigali the eighth Bishop and seventh Archbishop of St. Louis. He was formally installed on March 15, 1994. More recently, on July 15, 2003, Pope John Paul II appointed Archbishop Justin Rigali as the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop and eighth Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Prior to serving in St. Louis, Archbishop Rigali spent 20 years in various roles at the Vatican and is widely considered the closest American Bishop to Pope John Paul II.

Archbishop Rigali previously met with you during the campaign after a health care event at Grace Hill Family Center in St. Louis on April 12, 2000. You also met him in St. Louis on Tuesday, February 4, 2001, to discuss your education initiatives and your faith-based and community initiative.

The Archbishop is committed to issues involving young people. He was a vocal advocate for candidates “who support life” during the Ashcroft/Carnahan race while in St. Louis. This angered supporters of Governor Carnahan, because Archbishop Rigali pardoned killer Darrell Mease at the request of Pope John Paul. Archbishop Rigali has been one of the leaders in the Conference of Bishops urging other Bishops to meet with their Governors about eliminating the death penalty.

In 2001, Archbishop Rigali, Belleville Bishop Wilton Gregory, and more than 300 other U.S. Catholic bishops approved a letter calling on Israel to become more concerned about maintaining the Christian holy places. Rigali and other Catholic bishops are concerned about the plight and permanence of Christians in present day Israel.

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

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