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News From Around PA
PA has moved from "High Priority to Basic Equality" up to the "Building Equality" category in the Human Rights Campaign "State Equality Index."

The PA Supreme Court has decided that PA's congressional district map is unconstitutional and by a 4-3 vote it has also denied a stay request by legislative Republicans. An appeal has been filed with the US Supreme Court.

Aetna has agreed to pay $17.2 M to settle claims that it violated the HIV-privacy rights of 13,485 individuals by sharing info with its legal counsel and mail vendor. Ronda Goldfein, executive director of the AIDS Law Project of PA responded, "The fear of losing control of HIV-related information and the resulting risk of discrimination are barriers to health."

Rallies in Philly, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg were held to protest the recently announced Conscience and Religious Freedom Division under the US HHS Office for Civil Rights. SEIU Healthcare, Planned Parenthood and homosexual activists such as State Rep Brian Sims participated in the rallies who said, "This is about racism, it's about homophobia, it's about sexism, it's about misogyny, and transphobia."

GOP Congressman Pat Meehan (PA-7) has announced he will not seek re-election after reports surfaced of a confidential settlement was paid to a former staffer who alleged sexual harassment.

Additionally, PA GOP Congressmen not seeking re-election are Charlie Dent (PA 15) and Bill Shuster (PA 9). Lou Barletta (PA 11) is running for US Senate.

News from National Scene
An amendment to reinstate the voting rights of nonviolent felons will appear on the Florida ballot in November.

US Health and Human Services announces a new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division under the Office for Civil Rights. It is tasked with addressing discrimination against health care providers who do not want to participate in abortion or other medical procedures that go against their religious beliefs.

A retired JAG officer has indicated "Chelsea" Manning, who has declared a run in Maryland for US Senate, is prohibited by DOD regulations from running for office as "she" is still on active-duty status.

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