After three hours of debate, the State House passed HB 1948, which would ban abortions after 20 weeks and ban dismemberment abortions. Governor Wolf has pledged to veto the bill, if it reaches his desk.

PA Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-2nd) was convicted on 23 federal corruption charges and resigned immediately. He had originally sought to resign on October 3, the day before his sentencing, but relented under pressure.

The Philadelphia School Reform Commission has approved a new transgender policy in Philly’s School District. The policy allows full access to locker rooms, sport teams and bathrooms, pronouns corresponding to their gender identity will be used in school records, gender-neutral language should be used in school correspondence.

A federal judge in Wyoming made permanent the blocking of an Interior Dept. rule setting stricter standards for hydraulic fracturing on public lands.

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a halt on President Obama’s immigration plan, DACA and DAPA.

The Selective Investigative Panel on Planned Parenthood issued a criminal referral to New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas detailing evidence that the University of New Mexico and Southwestern Women’s Options may have violated NM’s Jonathan Spradling Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

In an apparent “compromise” top lawmakers on the Senate Agriculture Committee reached an agreement on mandatory, nationwide labeling for genetically modified foods (GM). Monsanto and its henchmen in Congress have been desperate to enact legislation at the Federal level, in order to pre-empt Vermont’s first-in-the-nation labeling law from going into effect on July 1. The standards are problematic: exempting certain types of GM foods from labeling requirements; not requiring actual labeling, but forcing consumers to scan QR codes, check manufacturers' websites, or dial 1-800 numbers to get info on the contents of the food products while shopping.

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Publication of the AFA of PA, P.O. Box 1048, Franklin, PA 16323
Phone: 814-271-9078
Fax: 814-437-5432
Website: http://afaofpa.org