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News From Around PA
Ten PA Congressmen signed onto a letter asking Governor Tom Wolf to reconsider his decision to accept Syrian Refugees. Representatives Lou Barletta and Scott Perry wrote their own letters. No Democrat, nor did GOP Congressman Charlie Dent, ask Wolf to reconsider. These letters are in addition to the one sent by over 100 PA State House members.

State Rep. Nick Kotik's bill authorizing slot machines at six PA airports -- Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Erie, Lehigh Valley and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton-- was voted out of committee and now heads to the full House.

According to recently released FBI hate crime stats, there were 50 incidences in 2014, down from 64 in 2013. There were 34 hate crimes motivated by an individual's race, eight motivated by the victim's religion and one by sexual orientation. (Note: The AFA of PA opposes all hate crimes laws because it forces the police to try and read the mind of the perpetrator. Besides . . .whoever heard of a love crime?)

PA’s Independent Fiscal Office found raising the minimum wage to $10.10 would cost PA 31,000 jobs.

News from National Scene
Since the beginning of fiscal year 2016, which began on Oct. 1, the United States has admitted 351 refugees from Syria, according to State Dept. Refugee Processing Center data - 346 Sunni Muslims and 5 Christians.

The Capitol Police in DC are rolling out a new policy to deal with transgenders. The new policy includes requiring police to ask transgenders if they object to being searched by a male or female officer and to place transgenders alone in holding cells. The National Center for Transgender Equality objects to the latter, saying the police should place them in cells according to their gender identity.

Six Democrats — Reps. Marcy Kaptur (OH), Mark Pocan (WS), Rosa DeLauro (CT), Louise Slaughter (NY), Nydia Velázquez (NY), and Tulsi Gabbard (HI) — said the 5,000 page TPP - Trans-Pacific Partnership --deal must be scrapped. They say the plan is a big giveaway to multinational corporations and will devastate jobs, wages, and the U.S. economy.

GOP is seeking an explanation from the Dept. of Homeland Security about a leaked memo revealing federal officials plan to evade a federal court order barring pieces of President Obama’s immigration executive orders.

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