



**Symposium Organizing Committee**

Press Announcement & Release of the Final Report:

***From Practitioners to Policymakers:  
A Statewide Call to Action for Greater  
Father Involvement in the Lives of  
Pennsylvania's Children and Families***

*Wednesday, March 27, 2019*

*2:30 P.M.*

*State Capitol Building*

*Main Rotunda*

*Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.*

*Presiding*

*Final Program*

# ***Program***

***Welcome and Greetings  
Ver'non D. Brown***

*Invocation*  
***George J. Fleming, Pastor and Founder  
The Father's Touch Ministry***

***Introduction of  
Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.  
Presiding***

*Acknowledgement of Co-Chairs*

***Release of the Final Report:***

***From Practitioners to Policymakers:  
A Statewide Call to Action for Greater Father Involvement  
In the Lives of Pennsylvania's Children and Families***

***Announcement of Legislative Bill  
Introduced in both Chambers of the General Assembly***

***Launching of the Campaign  
Brighter Futures for Our Children  
Through Greater Father Involvement***

*Introduction of  
Campaign Advocate and Champion  
Dr. Joel N. Myers  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AccuWeather*

***Remarks from Legislative Supporters***

## ***Pennsylvania State Government – And the importance of its leadership***

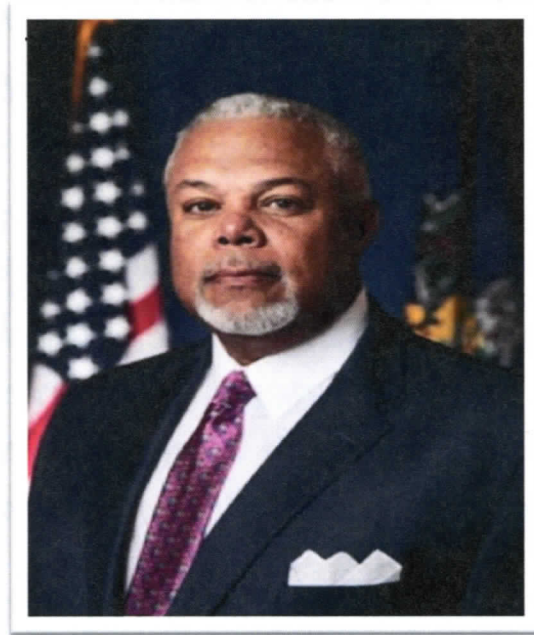
*Various attitudes, policy and procedural impediments exist delaying the successful recognition of the importance of fathers to the proper development of their children. The key strategy to overcoming these impediments is to get our state government leaders respectively to adopt the following recommendations, as a first step.*

***The General Assembly*** is encouraged to consider adoption of a Concurrent Resolution agreeing that prospective legislation regarding children and families will recognize, foster and promote the value of fathers' contribution to the well-being of their children;

***The Governor*** is urged to issue an Executive Order that directs all Commonwealth departments and agencies to acknowledge the value of fathers and to be inclusive of fathers in the development and administration of children and family programs; and

***The Supreme Court*** is requested to promulgate rules and procedures for the unified judicial system to ensure that fathers' rights receive equal consideration and review in determining the best interests of the child and family.

## Pennsylvania Senate Supporters



The Honorable Anthony Hardy Williams  
State Senator 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Prime Sponsor

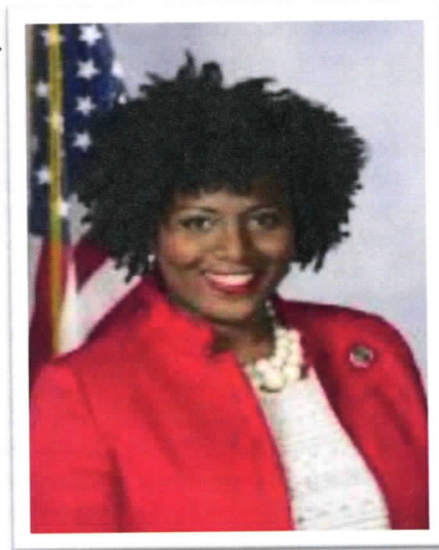


The Honorable Patrick M. Browne  
State Senator 16<sup>th</sup> District



The Honorable Jay Costa, Jr.  
State Senator 43<sup>rd</sup> District

## Pennsylvania House Supporters



The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton  
State Representative 191<sup>st</sup> District  
Prime Sponsor



The Honorable Edward C. Gainey  
State Representative 24<sup>th</sup> District



The Honorable Austin A. Davis  
State Representative 35<sup>th</sup> District



---

## JOEL N. MYERS

FOUNDER AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

814.235.8537

[joel.myers@accuweather.com](mailto:joel.myers@accuweather.com)

Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of AccuWeather, has been recognized in Entrepreneur Magazine's Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurs book as one of the greatest entrepreneurs in American history. He is a proven visionary leader, founding the company in 1962 and successfully establishing AccuWeather as the largest and fastest-growing weather media company as well as a global leader in weather-related big data, business, and predictive analytics.

AccuWeather, with global headquarters in State College, Pennsylvania, now reaches nearly 2 billion people worldwide through smart phones, tablets, wired and mobile Internet sites, radio, television, newspapers and the AccuWeather Network cable channel. Further, AccuWeather serves more than half of Fortune 500 companies as well as thousands of other businesses worldwide. Recognized as the most accurate source of highly localized weather forecasts and warnings everywhere in the world with proven Superior Accuracy™, AccuWeather has saved tens of thousands of lives and prevented tens of billions of dollars in property losses.

Dr. Myers is considered the "father of modern commercial meteorology" and the nation's most respected authority on the business of meteorology, having been named "the most accurate man in weather" by The New York Times. He received the American Meteorological Society's 2018 Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Applied Meteorology and the National Weather Association's 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award, in addition to numerous other accolades.

He has published papers in leading scientific journals, including Scientific American and The Journal of Applied Meteorology. He has made hundreds of TV appearances, including most recently on CNBC, FOX and CBC, and has frequently appeared on national programs such as ABC Nightly News and FOX Business News Channel's Coast to Coast with Neil Cavuto. His comments and expertise have appeared in Time, Inc., Business Week, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and thousands of other publications.

Dr. Myers is a sought-out expert in international business and digital media. He has written and delivered hundreds of scientific papers and speeches over a range of subjects, including a TED Talk, and has been hailed for achievements in the U.S., China, Japan, and many other countries. He has been an invited lecturer at The New York Academy of Sciences and many scientific, leadership, and charitable organizations. He is a Trustee of the Board of Directors for the Committee for Economic Development (CED) and he is also a Fellow of the Nantucket Project. Dr. Myers has also been an important force on the Penn State Board of Trustees for 33 years and continues to serve as an Emeritus Trustee, demonstrating his lifelong commitment to education, and was awarded Penn State's highest honors, the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Renaissance Award.

Dr. Myers donates his time and resources and is committed to giving back, including a multi-million dollar gift to Penn State for The Joel N. Myers Weather Center, a state-of-the-art teaching facility. In addition, he founded the Dads' Resource Center and supports the American Cancer Society and many additional causes. A successful, inspiring, and visionary leader, Dr. Myers continues to champion global business growth at AccuWeather while helping others.



# Dads'

Resource Center

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW  
The Strong Families Commission  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Dr. Lynch,

Research shows that children who maintain healthy, quality relationships with both their mom and their dad following the separation of their parents usually experience better adjustment and more positive rates of development.

In founding the Dads' Resource Center I took action to promote the well-being and healthy development of children from separated or divorced families by helping to support and encourage fathers to be fully and actively engaged in the lives of their sons and daughters. We believe society, the courts and social agencies all have an obligation to help ensure this relationship continues and strengthens so dads can provide the time, input, emotional and financial support that their children deserve and require.

In 2017 the Strong Families Commission organized a convening of father, child and family advocates to initiate a bipartisan and bicameral conversation on child well-being in Pennsylvania, and the urgent need for father involvement. This led to the commitment to begin the long journey of working with Commonwealth leaders to eliminate current systemic barriers that impede father involvement and their positive contributions to the mature development and well-being of children and families.

Today's presentation at the State Capital marks the transition to the next phase in the process. There is an opportunity to achieve great things for children as we continue to build a statewide coalition of fatherhood advocates and address the manner in which fathers are sometimes unfairly disenfranchised by the system.

Because of the time and dedication of so many involved in this initiative, there is an opportunity to achieve great things on behalf of children. I am honored, and humbly accept, the opportunity to play a role in this meaningful endeavor to make Pennsylvania a state that leads the country in advocating for the equal and critical rights and roles of both parents in the care and development of their children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joel N. Myers

# Statewide Convener

## THE STRONG FAMILIES COMMISSION



*An Advocate for Greater Father Involvement  
In the Lives of Children & Families  
And the Systems that Serve Them*  
**[drslynchtsfc@iawfpa.com](mailto:drslynchtsfc@iawfpa.com)**