

RICK TAYLOR, MEMBER

CAPITOL OFFICE:
106A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202151
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2151
(717) 705-2048
FAX: (717) 780-4776

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE:
701 HORSHAM ROAD
SUITE 101
HORSHAM, PENNSYLVANIA 19044
(215) 441-1030
FAX: (215) 441-1036

E-MAIL:
REPTAYLOR@PAHOUSE.NET



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
FINANCE
INSURANCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Rick Taylor

DATE: March 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Legislation Addressing the Definition of "Social Worker" in State and Federal Statutes

During the 2007-2008 session, the General Assembly passed Act 68, which allowed for endorsement provisions for out-of-state licensed social workers seeking to practice in Pennsylvania. The act defines the term "social worker" as an individual who holds a current license under the act or has received a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree from an accredited school or program of social work or social welfare.

Due to employment contracts in existence at the time, two exemptions for this definition were included: one for individuals employed by the commonwealth at the time of enactment, and another for individuals employed as a public or private school social worker at the time of enactment.

This legislation adds a third exemption: those individuals employed in a long-term care facility. The added exemption is needed because the definition used in Act 68 is stricter than in federal regulations. Although the nursing homes were complying with the federal regulations, they found that in order to comply with Act 68, many of their social workers would lose their jobs. By inserting this exemption, social workers currently employed by nursing homes will be able to remain in their current positions. All future hires will need to comply with Act 68.

Because I believe in the importance of protecting our long term care facilities, their patients, and employees, I hope you will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation. Please contact Deb Bricker at (717) 705-2048 or via e-mail at dbricker@pahouse.net.