

MEMO



DEC 03 2010

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 1, 2010

TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship -- **Law Enforcement Drug and Violence Task Force Act**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 150**, enacting the Law Enforcement Drug and Violence Task Force Act. The legislation establishes a grant program administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to help fund law enforcement drug and violence task forces. These task forces will provide a comprehensive crime-fighting effort in designated geographical areas to remove violent felons, illegal drugs, illegal firearms, and other criminal activity, and to improve the quality of life for residents of that area. Political subdivisions may apply to PCCD for grants to help fund these task forces.

At the Senate Judiciary Committee public hearing on January 22, 2007, the State Police described existing multijurisdictional drug task forces that focus on the movement of illegal drugs in Pennsylvania. In addition, the Philadelphia police department described its Strategic Intervention Tactical Enforcement (SITE) unit that focused on fighting crime and improving the quality of life in specific neighborhoods. The police department reported significant success in those targeted neighborhoods but also said that the SITE unit was underfunded.

Instead of duplicating ongoing efforts involving multijurisdictional drug task forces, this legislation will allow political subdivisions to apply for funding from PCCD to replicate the success the SITE unit had in Philadelphia. A political subdivision may use a grant for equipment and supplies, personnel and training, and any other costs directly related to establishing and operating a task force. Any political subdivision, including Philadelphia, may apply for a grant. Multiple political subdivisions may apply jointly for a grant and jointly establish and operate a task force.

A law enforcement drug and violence task force must be assigned and deployed as a specific unit within a police department and shall focus its operation on high-crime days of the week and during high-crime times of the day or night. A task force may target a designated geographical area within a political subdivision for a specific length of time and then be redeployed to another designated area in the political subdivision.

PCCD will monitor the use of the grants and may require an accounting. PCCD must annually report on this program to the judiciary committees of the House and the Senate.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at psnively@pasen.gov.