




Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson 

DATE: December 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation

I intend to reintroduce Senate Bill 136 of 2009, which was passed unanimously by the Senate on April 1, 2009. This legislation will create a state-level Data Quality Act ("DQA") to ensure the use of current and reliable data, studies, and scientific research by state agencies in Pennsylvania during the promulgation of new regulations.

This legislation will seek to amend the PA Regulatory Review Act and expand the scope of review by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission ("IRRC") to include the examination of the quality of data, studies, reports and information underlying state regulation.

The promulgating agency will have the responsibility to provide to the IRRC a sufficient description of any data upon which regulation is based as well as a detailed explanation of how the data was obtained and why the data is acceptable.

The burden of justification will be upon the regulatory agency to demonstrate that the regulation is based upon empirical, replicable and testable information as evidenced in supporting documentation, statistics, reports studies or research. If the agency does not, or cannot, it would be grounds for disapproval of the proposed regulation.

I invite you to join in cosponsorship of my bill. I believe it to be common-sense requirement of our regulatory agencies that will improve the overall regulatory environment as well as increase transparency in government.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Linda Kauffman at 7-1350 or lkauffman@pasen.gov.