

MEMO



DEC 06 2010

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 3, 2010

TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship -- **Protecting children in route to school from sex offenders**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 146**, helping to protect children in route to school from sex offenders. This bill allows the state to reimburse school districts for the bussing of children, residing within a mile and one-half from school, who would otherwise encounter the residences of registered sex offenders when walking to school.

Currently, the state does not reimburse school districts for the bussing of children who reside within a mile and one-half from school, unless the Department of Transportation determines the walking route to be a hazard. In determining what constitutes a hazard, the Department of Transportation has a statutory duty to consider relevant road and traffic conditions. The Department of Transportation does not have a duty to consider the presence of registered sex offender residences along the walking routes used by children. As a result, children are walking to school and potentially crossing paths with registered sex offenders.

This legislation provides for the consideration of the residences of registered sex offenders by the Department of Transportation in evaluating the hazards to the safety of children when they walk to school. The Pennsylvania State Police will be charged with supplying the Department of Transportation with the full home addresses of registered sex offenders, the nature of their sexual offenses, and their criminal history. The Department of Transportation will then determine whether the nature of the sex offender's sexual offense, the sex offender's criminal history, and the proximity of the sex offender's residence to the children's walking route constitute a hazard.

I believe that this legislation will help keep children safe from registered sex offenders.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at psnively@pasen.gov.