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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Daryl Metcalfe
12th Legislative District

DATE: December 1, 2010

RE: Cosponsorship Request
Illegal Immigration Legislation

J. J. M.

All of us are aware of the myriad of problems associated unchecked illegal immigration. In the wake of the failure of the federal government to sufficiently address these problems, states have been left to fend for themselves.

Arizona has been on the front lines of states dealing with the crime and other costly problems that have resulted from the lack of a concerted federal effort to deal with border security. In the near future, I will be introducing legislation in Pennsylvania which is modeled after a recent proposal in Arizona. The legislation would be implemented in compliance with by Federal law and would not abridge the civil rights of any person.

This legislation would:

- prohibit the receipt of public benefits without verification of lawful status within the United States.
- prevent the Commonwealth or political subdivisions from adopting policies to deal with illegal immigration that are less strict than Federal law or which interfere with the authority of government officials to verify immigration status for legitimate purposes, e.g., receipt of public benefits or to confirm the identity of detained individuals.
- require law enforcement officers to attempt to verify the immigration status of suspected illegal immigrants.

- upon completion of any criminal sentence, transfer illegal immigrants to the custody of Federal immigration officials.
- allow law enforcement officers to arrest individuals for any public offense which would warrant removal from the United States.
- provide for indemnification of a law enforcement officer against the cost of a lawsuit for acting in concert with these provisions (unless the officer acted in bad faith).
- authorize a private cause of action, and recovery of costs and attorney fees, against government agencies which implement a policy to restrict immigration enforcement.
- create a new criminal offense for aliens who violate federal law by either willfully failing to register as an alien or failing to possess proper proof of such registration.
- create a new felony offense for intentionally smuggling illegal aliens for profit.
- prohibit employment of illegal aliens by specifically authorizing enforcement actions by the local district attorney, providing a complaint process and creating penalties which include revocation of business licenses for multiple offenses.
- prevent employers who do not verify employment eligibility under the Federal government's e-verify system from obtaining the benefit of any economic development incentives and impose criminal penalties on those employers.
- create a new criminal offense for persons who are unlawfully present in the United States and are an unauthorized alien to apply for work.
- authorize law enforcement officers to impound any vehicle driven by an illegal alien, or used to transport illegal aliens, until a legal resident owner could come to pick up the vehicle and pay all associated removal and storage fees.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Cathy Waddington at 717-783-1707, or via e-mail at cwadding@pahousegop.com.

Thank you.

DDM/cmw