

MEMO



DEC 13 2010

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 10, 2010

TO: ALL SENATORS

FROM:

Stewart J. Greenleaf

Stewart

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship -- **Medical Assistance Bed Transfer Act**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 342**, enacting the Medical Assistance Bed Transfer Act to allow nursing facilities to obtain Medical Assistance (MA) certified beds under limited terms and conditions.

This Act establishes the Medical Assistance Bed Transfer Program whereby the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) will administer the transfer of MA certified beds from one licensed nursing facility to another licensed nursing facility. DPW will solicit unused certified beds from facilities throughout the state in order to transfer them to facilities that express a need for beds. DPW will determine a fair and reasonable price, not to exceed \$10,000, for the transfer of each certified bed. A nursing facility may not receive more than half of the total number of MA certified beds being surrendered to the department. Should more beds be surrendered or offered than are requested, DPW will decide which nursing facilities will surrender their certified beds.

Current DPW policy on Long Term Care essentially places a moratorium on nursing homes that wish to either add new MA beds or seek to become MA certified. Nursing facilities do not have a process in which they can request a limited number of beds to be certified under the MA program. When residents of a nursing facility that does not have certified MA beds exhaust their resources and become MA eligible they must relocate. This places our senior citizens in a vulnerable position. They are forced to move from an environment that is comfortable for them and such a relocation disrupts the continuity of their care.

Under my legislation, seniors will not have to face the difficulties of relocation and will be able to stay in a care setting that meets their health needs and provides a sense of security about where they will reside in the future.

This process will make MA beds readily available to nursing homes that are in need of them while at the same time utilizing existing MA beds statewide without bringing additional beds into the MA program.

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