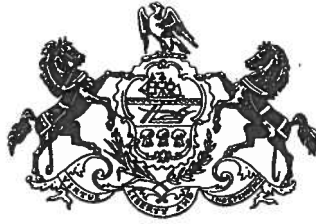


**MEMO**



DEC 14 2010

Senate of Pennsylvania

December 13, 2010

**TO:** ALL SENATORS  
**FROM:** Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*  
**SUBJECT:** Cosponsorship -- **Restroom Access Act**

I am reintroducing **Senate Bill 354**, enacting the Restroom Access Act to require a retail establishment that has toilet facilities for its employees to allow a customer to use that facility during normal business hours if the customer suffers from an inflammatory bowel disease or any other medical condition that requires immediate access to a toilet facility.

This legislative proposal was brought to my attention by a constituent in my district whose child suffers from Crohn's disease. There are as many as 1 million Americans who suffer from either Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis, which are collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are 58,707 patients living in Pennsylvania with IBD. A common symptom of these conditions is the quick onset of severe diarrhea. There is no known cause of inflammatory bowel disease, or medical cure.

A customer seeking access to a retail establishment's "employee only" toilet facility must provide some proof (written documentation from a physician or an identification card from an appropriate nonprofit organization) of a medical condition which requires immediate access to a restroom facility. This will ensure that the person requesting restroom access truly has a medical condition. A violation of this Act is punishable by a civil penalty of up to \$500.

This measure is supported by the Philadelphia/Delaware Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America and the Philadelphia Ostomy Association. Three states (Illinois, Minnesota and Texas) have enacted laws similar to this proposal.

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee reported this legislation from committee last session.

*If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at [psnively@pasen.gov](mailto:psnively@pasen.gov).*