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40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

DEC 17 2010

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Senate of Pennsylvania

SENATE BOX 203040
ROOM 362, THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3040
717-787-6538 • FAX: 717-787-8625
E-MAIL: jorie@pasen.gov
WEBSITE: senatororie.com

LA CASA BLANCA BUILDING
9400 MCKNIGHT ROAD, SUITE 105
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237
412-630-9466 • FAX: 412-635-2199

2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 207
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066
724-776-3500 • FAX: 724-776-3582

COSPONSOR MEMO #7

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie 

DATE: December 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Charter School Appeal Board Composition

I will soon be reintroducing **SB 785**, which would amend the Charter School Law by specifically requiring a parent of a school aged child attending a charter school sit on the Charter Appeal Board. Currently, the law provides for a "parent of a school aged child."

At the time when the law was written in 1997, we did not provide for the representation and perspective of a parent who has taken the opportunity to send their child to a charter school. Now that there are 145 charter schools, this legislation would ensure that at least one Charter Appeal Board member will have a parent's first-hand experience and perspective with a charter school.

When the law was written in 1997 there was no way to ensure representation of any charter school perspective. Now that there are 145 charter schools, this legislation would ensure that at least one Charter Appeal Board member is representative of the perspective of charter schools.

SB 785 was cosponsored by Senators Alloway, Browne, Dinniman, Earll, Eichelberger, Folmer, O'Pake, Piccola, Pileggi, Pippy, Rafferty, Ward, Washington, Waugh, M. White and Williams.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Kacie Morrell at 787-6538 or kmorrell@pasen.gov.

JCO/ns