

Memorandum

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Phyllis Mundy

DATE: January 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Amendment to the Tax Reform Code of 1971 to provide for the Children’s Trust Fund Check-Off (*Formerly HB 2376 of the 2009-2010 Legislative Session*)

I will soon reintroduce a bill to amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971 to create a tax check-off line for the Children’s Trust Fund.

The Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) was established by the Children's Trust Fund Act in December 1988 to provide grant funding for community-based programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. Special emphasis for CTF investments is placed on primary prevention programs, which focus on the prevention of abuse before it occurs for the first time. Applicants are also required to utilize evidence or research-based methods to coach family care providers in effective strategies to strengthen families.

CTF funds are currently generated by \$10 surcharges placed on applications for marriage licenses and divorce filings. As a member of the CTF Board, I know that CTF needs more funds to better support programs aimed to protect Pennsylvania’s children. **My bill seeks to enhance CTF’s revenues by adding a space on Pennsylvania individual income tax return forms where individuals could voluntarily designate a contribution to CTF.** Please note that the amount designated by an individual on his or her income tax return form would be deducted from the tax refund to which the individual is entitled and would not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to the Commonwealth.

Child care and early education programs have the potential to reach many children and their families on a daily basis. Enhancement of CTF revenues would allow these programs to reach larger numbers of children and families and to act as an early warning and response system, allowing intervention to take place before abuse and neglect occurs.

PRIOR CO-SPONSORS:

Petri, Thomas, Belfanti, Benninghoff, Bishop, Boback, Bradford, Brennan, Briggs, Brown, Caltagirone, Cohen, Fabrizio, Freeman, Geist, George, Gerber, McIlvaine Smith, Melio, Micozzie, Moul, Murt, M. O’Brien, Parker, Preston, Readshaw, Samuelson, Santoni, Seip, Siptroth, K. Smith, Staback, J. Taylor, and Watson

Should you wish to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Kris Bernard in my office at kbernard@pahouse.net or at 783-1614.

