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TO: All Senators

DATE: December 20, 2010

FROM: Senator Michael J. Stack *MJS*

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation

In the near future, I intend to re-introduce legislation addressing Hit-and-Run Accidents. The first bill, **Senate Bill 522 of the 2009-10 Session**, would increase the penalties for fleeing the scene of an accident. If a victim suffers serious bodily injury, the person fleeing the scene of the accident will serve a two-year minimum term of imprisonment. If a victim dies, the person fleeing the scene of the accident will serve a five-year minimum term of imprisonment. Last session, the House of Representatives passed a bill to increase the prison term for fatal hit-and-run accident to five years.

The legislation eliminates a loophole in the current law that drunk drivers take advantage of. If an intoxicated driver causes a fatal hit-and-run accident they currently face a minimum three-year prison sentence. They often flee the scene to avoid being prosecuted for DUI. Then, they turn themselves in after they're sober and receive a one-year sentence for fleeing the scene of a fatal accident. **Last year, Senate Bill 522 was co-sponsored by Senators Browne, Erickson, Farnese, Ferlo, Fontana, Hughes, Kitchen, Logan, O'Pake, Rafferty, Stout, Tartaglione.**

The second bill, **Senate Bill 523 of the 2009-10 Session**, will create the Peter Roberto Alert System. It is a 911 and multi-media notification system that broadcasts the descriptions of vehicles involved in hit-and-run accidents immediately after a serious or fatal crash. The alert system will be similar to the Amber Alert System.

The alert system will help to quickly apprehend people who flee the scenes of serious accidents. Often times, people flee the scene of a serious accident and take measures to avoid prosecution. These measures include making repairs to vehicles and sobering up to avoid a harsher penalty. **Last year, Senate Bill 523 was co-sponsored by Senators Boscola, Browne, Costa, Farnese, Ferlo, Fontana, Kitchen, Logan, Rafferty, Stout, Tartaglione.**

The legislation is being introduced to honor Peter Roberto. Peter tragically lost his life in a hit-and-run accident on Thanksgiving night 2004. The person who hit Peter avoided police for several hours, but eventually turned himself in.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor either bill, please call my office at 7-9608.