

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: KEVIN MURPHY, Member
113th Legislative District, Lackawanna County

DATE: January 6, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship of re-introduction of legislation—Freestanding Act to allow for classroom observance of the Electoral Process (former HB 2504 of 2009-10 Session)

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation creates a freestanding to provide for rules and regulations pertaining to classroom observance of the Electoral process in polling places.

Recently, a classroom of elementary school aged children and their teacher were turned away from observing at a polling place in my district by a new Judge of Elections. Current language within the Election Code does not provide protection for classroom observance. This may not be an issue for many legislative districts, but has unfortunately become an issue in mine.

My legislation creates a freestanding act to provide for classroom observance at the polls during election times. Additionally, my legislation would have safeguard language in place as well so that order and unbiased integrity of the electoral process is preserved, such as time limits for observance and time frames in which observance can be done (“off-peak hours”). The intent of this language is to continue to encourage our youth to participate and take in interest in the Democratic process and better citizenry.

This legislation was amended in House State Government Committee last session to provide for consistency with existing law by adding definitions and clarifying language; it passed the House overwhelmingly by a vote of 186-9.

If you'd like to again co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Stephanie in my office at shardman@pahouse.net. Thank you.