

DATE: January 6, 2011

TO: ALL DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN HOUSE MEMBERS

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

RE: REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSIP (re-introduction): CHILD MURDER LAW
“Zachary’s Law” (former HB 2598 of 2009-10 Session)

In the very near future I intend to re-introduce legislation creating mandatory minimum sentences for those defendants convicted of causing the death of anyone under the under the age of 13 by amending Title 42, §9718(a)(2) to include third degree murder, voluntary manslaughter, and drug delivery resulting in death.

The proposed mandatory sentences will be 40 years, 10 years, and 10 years respectively. This will add to our statutes punishing the harming of the very young much as we specially punish harming the very old. For instance, the House Judiciary Committee just passed a bill to amend the death penalty statute to provide for an aggravating circumstance of murdering a person 60 or older, or who was otherwise especially infirmed, or disabled.

The same would apply to our children, the other most vulnerable group in which we, as a society, and a Commonwealth, seek to vehemently protect.

If you’d like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Stephanie in my office at shardman@pahouse.net .

Thank you.