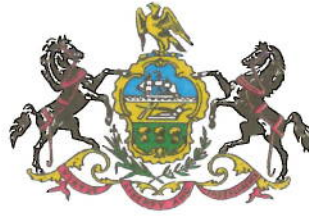


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To: All Senators

Date: December 21, 2010

From: Senator Michael J. Stack *MJS*

Subject: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation

I am re-introducing Senate bill 1041 of the 2009-10 Session to support aging in place services in naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs). NORCs are defined as residential buildings, housing complexes, rural areas, or neighborhoods where 40% of the heads of households are seniors or a large population of senior citizens exist and the population allows for the efficient delivery of in-home services to senior citizens. There are four existing NORCs within Pennsylvania.

In addition to defining NORCs, the legislation establishes guidelines based on federal law for the development of NORCs. The guidelines will ensure senior citizens receive services to help them age in place. The services offered to NORCs include:

- Care coordination;
- Health assessment and monitoring, socialization activities;
- Home repairs;
- Technological assistance;
- Transportation assistance; and
- Home health care.

The Department of Aging would administer the NORC program, issue grants to eligible entities that provide services to NORC residents, and provide an annual report to the General Assembly regarding the NORC program.

The legislation provides \$5 million for grants to non-profit organizations serving NORCs. This program will help Pennsylvania's aging population, which will increase with baby boomer retirements. Investing in programs that build on the strength of existing neighborhoods will naturally prolong a senior citizen's independence to reside in their homes, improve their quality of life, and avoid unnecessary hospital and nursing home stays.

Last session, SB 1041 was co-sponsored by Senators Boscola, Ferlo, Fontana, Greenleaf, Hughes, Kitchen, Logan, O'Pake, Rafferty, Stout, Washington and Wozniak

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