

JOHN C. BEAR, MEMBER
97TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
PO BOX 202097
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2097
PHONE: (717) 787-1776




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DISTRICT OFFICE
1555 HIGHLANDS DRIVE, SUITE 110
LITITZ PA 17543
PHONE (717) 626-1776

E-MAIL: jbear@pahousegop.com
www.repbear.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative John C. Bear 

DATE: January 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Reintroduction of legislation – Welfare to Work,
Retiree Mentoring Program – Prior HB 835**

I will be reintroducing legislation that would establish a demonstration program, through the PA Department of Aging, for a Retiree Mentoring Program. This program would be modeled after the Kansas Welfare to Work Senior Mentoring Initiative or "Mentoring Works." The program was exceptionally effective and exceeded enrollment and job placement goals. In 1999, the U. S. Department of Labor named the Mentoring Works Program the winner of their "Architect of Change Award" for what labor defines as "the most innovative and forward thinking program in the workforce development system."

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Retiree Mentoring Works Demonstration Program would be to provide mentoring services to individuals who are transitioning from welfare or who are low-wage workers to find and retain employment. My legislation would require the PA Department of Aging to select retired individuals who are 60 years of age or older to serve as mentors by assisting clients in removing barriers to finding and retaining quality employment in rural, urban and suburban regions of the Commonwealth. The department would establish a mentor recruitment and training process and would be required to work in cooperation with the Team PA Workforce Investment Board, the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Public Welfare to ensure the success of the program.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debra Brehm in my office at 787-1776 or via GroupWise at dbrehm@pahousegop.com.

Prior HB 835 co-sponsors: BOYD , BROOKS , CALTAGIRONE , CREIGHTON , CUTLER , DENLINGER, FLECK , GEIST , GIBBONS , GINGRICH , GROVE, HENNESSEY , HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN , KAUFFMAN , M. KELLER , MILLER , MOUL , MURT , OBERLANDER, O'NEILL , PICKETT , READSHAW , ROAE , ROCK , ROSS . SCAVELLO , STERN , STURLA .SWANGER , THOMAS , TURZAI and VULAKOVICH