

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Chelsa Wagner

**SUBJECT:** Introduction of Legislation – Task Force for Homeless Children’s Education

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that will establish a Task Force on Homeless Children’s Education. This legislation was previously introduced in the 2009-2010 Legislative Session as House Bill 2688.

A 2009 report by the National Center on Family Homelessness found that Pennsylvania is home to more than 40,000 children of homeless families, as well as more than 10,000 “homeless unaccompanied youth.” Children now make up the largest segment of the homeless population in Allegheny County. Our schools sometimes serve as the only safe haven and stable environment for these children.

The Task Force on Homeless Children’s Education will be comprised of 18 individuals commissioned with the duty to examine the educational needs and status of homeless children within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such individuals shall include, among others, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Public Welfare, the Secretary of Health, the Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and members of local agencies that assist homeless children in their capacities at local school districts, intermediate units and social services providers. Finally, the task force must develop a proposal to ensure a strong educational foundation for each student within Pennsylvania, regardless of his or her home status. If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick at [jdetrick@pahouse.net](mailto:jdetrick@pahouse.net).