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MEMO

January 11, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Tony DeLuca

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SUBJECT: Proposed legislation – Law Enforcement Officer Drug Screening (HB 653 of 2009)

In the near future I will be re-introducing legislation (HB 653 of 2009) creating the Law Enforcement Officer Drug Screening Act. This Act will provide for the termination of law enforcement officers upon their testing positive for a controlled substance.

In this legislation, a controlled substance refers to a drug, substance or immediate precursor specified in schedules I through V of section 4 of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

This legislation is very simple. If you are a law enforcement officer, sworn to protect and defend our citizens, and you test positive for drug use, you will be terminated from employment. We cannot tolerate those we entrust to enforce the law, breaking the law in any way.

Furthermore, and specifically, drug use by law enforcement officers can lead to a myriad of difficulties such as, arrests made by them, later being thrown out of court, drug evidence being tampered with by addicted officers who have access to that evidence, partners on the force having their safety placed in jeopardy because they are impaired, and any number of other situations that cause harm to befall the public safety and well being of the residents of our communities.

We need to send a very clear message that illegal drug use by law enforcement officers will not be tolerated and is going to be punished. My proposal will do just that.

If you wish to add your name as a co-sponsor to this proposal, please send an email to ldolfi@pahouse.net. Thank you.