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Senate of Pennsylvania

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January 11, 2011

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Kim Ward
SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – Family Caregiver Support Act - **Memo #7**

I plan to introduce legislation to amend the Family Caregiver Support Act to expand eligibility for the Family Caregiver Support Program to non-family caregivers and to caregivers who do not live in the same resident as the care recipient.

Currently, Pennsylvania only allows relative caregivers to enroll in the program. This legislation makes Pennsylvania's program consistent with the National Family Caregiver Support Program that permits non-family caregivers to receive reimbursement for care-related expenses.

In addition, it would increase the current monthly reimbursement limit from \$200 to \$500 and also increase the lifetime limit from \$2,000 to \$6,000 for expenses incurred for home modifications or assistive devices. This program is not an entitlement program and the legislation would not require any additional state funds but provide for additional federal funds to be accessed. This legislation would allow individuals to make minor alterations to their home rather than go into a nursing home.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Tiffany Price in my office at 717-787-6063 or by email at tprice@pasen.gov.

KLW/vjw