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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Neal P. Goodman
DATE: January 11, 2011
SUBJECT: Co-Sponsor Memo - Exempt Veterans' Benefits from Income Eligibility Calculations for All Commonwealth Programs (Former HB 1579)

In the near future, I will re-introduce legislation from last session to exempt veterans' benefits from income eligibility calculations for ALL Commonwealth programs. This legislation goes further than my other two bills I am also introducing for veterans, which relate only to the PACE and Property Tax/Rent Rebate programs, in that this bill would apply to every Commonwealth program.

Through the years, various benefits, such as service-connected disability payments and pensions, have been authorized by the legislature to thank and honor veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our country. Unfortunately, these benefits sometimes result in disqualifying veterans for other state programs. I am introducing this legislation to ensure that no veterans' benefit (from any source) is counted as income for the purpose of calculating income eligibility for any Commonwealth benefit program, tax exemption, fee exemption rebate, or other state program.

Previous co-sponsors: BAKER, BARBIN, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOBACK, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROWN, CARROLL, CASORIO, CONKLIN, DALEY, DeLUCA, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GROVE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HARKINS, HELM, HESS, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, KULA, MANN, MATZIE, McGEEHAN, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MURPHY, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PHILLIPS, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEVENSON, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, VULAKOVICH, and YUDICHAK.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Linda Reed via email at lreed@pahouse.net or at 787-2798.