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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Mauree A. Gingrich *MAY*
DATE: January 11, 2011
SUBJECT: Co-sponsor- Task Force on Drug-Endangered Children (Former HB 598)

In the near future I will be re-introducing legislation amending the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law to establish a Task Force on Drug-Endangered Children.

Children who live in or visit sites where illegal drug production and drug trafficking occur face a variety of health and safety risks, including: inhalation, absorption or ingestion of toxic chemicals, drugs or contaminated foods; fires and explosions; abuse and neglect; and hazardous conditions such as code violations, poor ventilation, and the presence of illegal firearms and other weapons.

The goal of the Task Force is to improve the health of children exposed to chemicals associated with methamphetamine production or other drug trafficking or abuse by identifying the physical, psychological and sociological effects on children and providing appropriate intervention. The Task Force will be required to set medical protocols as well as establish a rapid response system to assist such children.

This concept is supported by the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children as well as the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Similar legislation has been passed in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, and federal legislation was pending in the prior Congressional session. Existing programs effectively utilize coordinated response systems which include participation by law enforcement, prosecutors, child protective services, medical personnel and other social service support agencies.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation by contacting Nicole Foit at 783-1815 or via e-mail at nfoit@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

Previous Co-sponsors: *BEYER, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON, DENLINGER, DONATUCCI, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, HENNESSEY, MAJOR, MANN, MCGEEHAN, MILLER, MOUL, PHILLIPS, PYLE, READSHAW, ROSS, K. SMITH, STERN, SWANGER, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD*