

LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP, MEMBER

326 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202192
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2192
PHONE: (717) 783-2192
FAX: (717) 787-2960

1991 NORTH 63RD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19151
PHONE: (215) 879-6625
FAX: (215) 879-8566




COMMITTEES

AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES
CHILDREN & YOUTH, CHAIR
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION
PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2011
TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP 
SUBJECT: CHILD DAY CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL STATE PLAN

I plan to introduce legislation that requires the Department of Public Welfare, in cooperation with the Departments of Education and Health, to develop an annual, comprehensive state plan on early childhood development and child day care services. The bill is similar to HB 1977 of last session that was reported out of the House Children and Youth Committee.

Pennsylvania has made a strong investment in programs that benefit young children, enhance their growth and development, and help them start and remain in school healthy, safe and ready to learn and succeed. This proposal requires continued collaboration at the state and local level in planning and providing for services for young children and their families.

In developing its an annual plan on child day care and early childhood development services, including early intervention services for children with developmental delays, DPW will obtain comments from parents, families, child care professionals, businesses, and interested citizens. The plan will be prepared by May 1 of each year and will provide information on numbers of children served, gaps in services, innovative programs and funding sources.

There are over 880,000 children under the age of six in our Commonwealth. According to the Census Bureau, mothers are working in about 63 percent of all households with children under the age of six, and 78 percent of mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 13 are in the work force. These demographics underscore the importance of early childhood development and child day care programs.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this bill, please contact Heather in my office at 772-9901 (6487) as soon as possible.