

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Tony Payton, Jr.
308 Irvis Office Building

Date: January 12, 2011

Subject: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – Teaching Certificates for STEM Careers

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation for a residency teaching certificate which would allow skilled professionals in high-demand science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) occupations to bring real-world knowledge and experience into Pennsylvania's classrooms. Currently, students in Pennsylvania and across the United States trails students in more than half the world's industrialized nations in math and science testing. In order for our students to compete in the global economy, it has become apparent that we need alternative solutions to improve these skills in the classroom.

This legislation will allow the Secretary of Education to issue a three-year residency teaching certificate in subject areas where the Secretary determines there is a statewide or regional shortage of teachers. In order to obtain residency certification, an applicant would be required to have one of the following:

- A bachelor's degree in the subject area, along with at least three years of relevant work experience
- A master's degree in the subject area, along with at least one year of relevant work experience
- A doctoral degree in the subject area

Candidates for certification would also have to complete an intensive program that focuses on individual assessment, child instruction and development strategies, and measurement of student achievement. Candidates will also receive personal mentoring and feedback throughout the year.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jorge Santana at 215-744-7901 or via e-mail at jsantana@pahouse.net.