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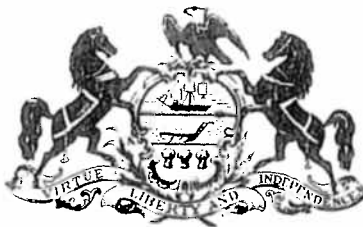
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MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Jim Cox  
**DATE:** January 18, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Co-Sponsorship - "Nurse" Title Protection

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I invite you to cosponsor two bills that I plan to introduce amending the Professional Nursing Law and the Practical Nurse Law to establish statutory protection for the use of the title "Nurse."

As you may know, Pennsylvania law presently prohibits any person from using the title of "Registered Nurse (RN)" and "Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)" in a professional capacity, unless the person is duly licensed to practice as such by the Pennsylvania Nursing Board.

The use of the title "Nurse" is not presently protected by Pennsylvania Law. Consequently, unlicensed individuals working as health assistants or health techs in medical facilities and schools can and do refer to themselves as a "Nurse," thus misrepresenting to the public that they are authorized, educated and trained to practice nursing. This misleads the patient regarding the qualifications of the person caring for them and poses serious patient safety concerns if inaccurate, inappropriate, or even dangerous health care advice is given to the patient.

Individuals receiving health care and those employing nurses have a right to know whether they are dealing with a legally qualified nurse. Professionals who legitimately use the title "Nurse" are individually responsible and accountable for their actions, and are required to adhere to professional codes of practice and ethics. Reserving that title for those who meet the legal standard allows the public to distinguish legally qualified nurses from other nursing care providers.

This legislation has the support of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association. Currently, 25 states around the nation have enacted legislation protecting the title of "Nurse."

If you are interested in co-sponsoring the above legislation, please contact Jen Sellers at 772-2435 or [jeseller@pahousegop.com](mailto:jeseller@pahousegop.com).