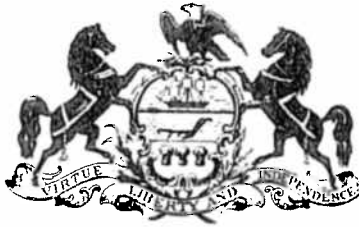


**JIM CHRISTIANA, MEMBER**  
15th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

3468 BROADHEAD ROAD  
SUITE 9  
MONACA, PA 15061  
(724) 728-7655 PHONE  
(724) 773-7802 FAX

WEBSITE: WWW.REPCHRISTIANA.COM  
E-MAIL: JCHRISTI@PAHOUSEGOP.COM




**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**COMMITTEES:**  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

53-B EAST WING  
PO BOX 202015  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2015  
(717) 260-6144 PHONE  
(717) 260-6506 FAX

January 18, 2011

**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Jim Christiana   
**RE:** Education: Open Enrollment Program Legislation

It has long been held that competition spurs improvement in public education, driving schools to provide an excellent education for our students.

I intend to introduce legislation in the near future establishing the Pennsylvania Open Enrollment Program to give students and their parents or guardians the opportunity to choose the public school that is right for them. It is time to give Pennsylvanians the freedom to choose a public school based on its quality, not based on their address.

Public school choice already exists on a voluntary basis in Pennsylvania, per Section 1316 of the Public School Code. However, this approach is unstructured and unpublicized. The current system also depends on the willingness of local school boards to work out the funding details with families that desire a transfer to a non-resident school district. My proposal would ensure that State dollars follow the child to the receiving school district without a burdensome cost to the family. In order for true public school choice to become a reality in Pennsylvania, a structured open enrollment program based on the principles of fairness and transparency is necessary.

My legislation provides for program parameters, application procedures and safeguards against abuse. The legislation is modeled after successful programs operating in other states and is designed to fit seamlessly into our Commonwealth's public education system. Open enrollment programs have been enacted by several other states, including Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Iowa. The open enrollment programs in these states have experienced great success and it is time for Pennsylvania to expand the options available to our students. We have many exemplary public school districts within our State, and students should have the right to attend the public school that matches their needs and meets their standards.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Sandra Pancoe in my office at (717) 260-6144 or at [sapancoe@pahousegop.com](mailto:sapancoe@pahousegop.com).