

MARK B. COHEN, MEMBER



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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Mark B. Cohen 

DATE: January 20, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship of Legislation Renaming the Public Welfare Department

Your co-sponsorship is requested on legislation that would rename the Public Welfare Department as the Human Services Department.

“Human services” more appropriately describes the vast array of services that the Public Welfare Department provides. Among its services are help to people with disabilities, mental health problems, mental retardation problems, Medicaid, autism, brain injuries, infants, nursing home residencies, heating assistance needs, etc. Only a small portion of what the Public Welfare Department is engaged in is welfare. Its current name often creates a negative stigma to people considering applying for its many benefits.

This bill will be the same as HB 2492 that was introduced by Rep. McIlvaine Smith last session. The cosponsors then were THOMAS , BRIGGS, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE , CARROLL , DeLUCA , FRANKEL , GEORGE , GERBER , GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GRUCELA , HENNESSEY , KORTZ , MATZIE, MIRABITO, MUNDY , O'NEILL , PASHINSKI , ROEBUCK , SANTONI , SIPTROTH , STURLA , WHITE and PAYTON

Please contact Linda Huntington in my office to co-sponsor this bill at either lhunting@pahouse.net or 787-3085.