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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES
EDUCATION, MAJORITY SECRETARY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
LABOR RELATIONS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ken Smith

SUBJECT: Legislation to include optometrists in the list of medical providers who may certify a disability.

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow optometrists to certify a disability for the purpose of issuing a person-with-disability plate or placard.

Under current law, in order to obtain a license plate or placard for a person with a disability, an individual must submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), which must be accompanied by a certified statement from a medical provider who is covered under §1338 (c) (1). Optometrists are not among the list of medical providers who are authorized to issue a certification of disability to PennDOT. Please note that blindness is included in the list of eligible disabilities required to qualify for a plate or placard. It is therefore appropriate to authorize optometrists to make such a designation under Title 75.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Nilda Jenkins in my office at 717-783-1359 or by e-mail at njenkins@pahouse.net.

Previous Co-Sponsorship to former HB 2439

K. SMITH , BROWN, DENLINGER , STABACK , SIPTROTH , JOSEPHS , PHILLIPS ,
READSHAW , SWANGER , HENNESSEY , GIBBONS , YOUNGBLOOD and
CALTAGIRONE