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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Mark B. Cohen, Chair
Democratic Human Services Committee

DATE: January 24, 2011

RE: Military Personnel Next of Kin Remains

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Cohen".

This bill would require state law to recognize and respect the wishes of a military service member, in the instance when that person who dies during service, as to how his or her remains are to be handled. This would be done by legally recognizing that the remains are to follow what the military service person authorizes on the military's form, currently known as a DD Form 93.

There have been instances where state courts instead recognize who is designated in a will to make these decisions. Often, military service personnel fail to update their wills upon entering service. There have been cases where ex-spouses have made these decisions, as designated under an old will. The bill will make it legally clear that these decisions should be determined according to the wishes of the person in military service.

This would be the same as HB 2191 from last session. The cosponsors then were BOBACK , BELFANTI , GEORGE , JOSEPHS , CALTAGIRONE , BEAR , CASORIO , CREIGHTON , EVERETT , GEIST , GOODMAN, HARHAI , HARKINS , HENNESSEY , HORNAMAN , MAHONEY , MIRABITO, MURT , SIPTROTH , K. SMITH, SOLOBAY , VULAKOVICH , WATERS , YOUNGBLOOD and KILLION

Please contact Linda Huntington in my office to cosponsor this at lhunting@pahouse.net or 787-3085.