

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: All House Members

From: Representative Scott Conklin

Date: December 28, 2010

RE: Legislation Providing for Uniform Child Abduction Prevention

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In the near future, I will be reintroducing legislation (House Bill 90) aimed at preventing parental child abduction.

This legislation, which passed the House of Representatives last session, would create guidelines for courts in Pennsylvania to follow in custody disputes that involve a parent or guardian deemed at risk of abducting a child. Courts would be able to consider risk factors such as: a previous attempt or threat to abduct a child; an attempt to obtain a child's birth certificate, school, or medical records; sudden applications for passports or visas; and strong family, financial, or cultural ties to a foreign country.

In cases in which a court deems that there is a risk of abduction, a parent would be able to petition the court to order a number of anti-abduction measures, including restricting the travel of the child when the child is with the other parent, restricting access to the child by the other parent, and requiring the other parent to surrender any passport or visa held for the child.

In late 2006, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws met and drafted the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act in order to assist states in helping to prevent this terrible phenomenon. I believe it is of paramount importance that our Commonwealth join other states that have already enacted Uniform Child Abduction Prevention laws.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Patricia McMillan at 717-787-9473 or [pmmcilla@pahouse.net](mailto:pmmcilla@pahouse.net). Thank you for your time.