

**TARAH TOOHL, Member
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2011
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Tarah Toohil
116th Legislative District
SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation – Welfare Fraud

PC 1.

In an effort to protect our public welfare system from those who aim to abuse it and to ensure taxpayer dollars are not being wasted through fraudulent activity, I will soon be introducing legislation aimed at strengthening penalties on those who commit welfare fraud.

My proposal would ensure that those convicted of more than \$1,000 worth of fraudulent abuse of welfare cash benefits and/or food stamps would be guilty of a felony of the third degree. This measure would amend 62 P.S. § 481 to mirror the penalties set forth in 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 7313. It would also clarify existing welfare fraud language to include the use of access devices (ACCESS Card or EBT Cards).

Pennsylvania provides a generous safety net for residents in need of assistance during difficult times, which is why those who abuse the system should be appropriately penalized.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Sara Peck at 260-6136 or via email at speck@pahousegop.com.