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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Doug Reichley

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsor Memo: Property Tax Relief for Seniors (Prior HB 846)

DATE: February 1, 2011

Property tax reform is an issue that has been debated and considered on multiple occasions over the course of recent legislative sessions. As a result of these debates, legislation has been enacted which reformed the manner in which school property taxes are assessed while also providing relief to homeowners across Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, while the measures that have been enacted have provided subtle assistance, additional legislation is needed in order to provide more substantial property tax relief, especially for seniors residing on a fixed income.

Overall, seniors residing on fixed incomes are the most financially vulnerable group as it relates to increasing property taxes. While initiatives such as the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program have certainly assisted these individuals, the fact remains that as property taxes continue to rise and income levels remain stagnant for some seniors, the likelihood of home repossession will grow, due to inability to pay.

With this in mind, I will be re-introducing legislation designed to assist senior citizens with their property tax payments. If enacted, my legislation will provide supplemental property tax relief for senior citizens whose qualified household income does not exceed \$35,000. Widows and widowers who are 50 years of age or older, and permanently disabled individuals who are 18 years of age or older are also eligible for the relief.

The base amount of a claim will be determined by local taxing authorities. Supplemental amounts for claimants whose property taxes exceed 15% of their household income will be equal

to 50% of the base amount, previously mentioned. The maximum amount of property tax or rent rebate for any claimant will not exceed \$500.

Please join me in my efforts to assist seniors across Pennsylvania with their property tax burden. If you wish to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact my Harrisburg assistant Kendra Wiederhold at 787-1000 or kwiederh@pahousegop.com.