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Senate of Pennsylvania

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January 31, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Kim Ward

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – Amendment to the Older Adult Protective Services Act relating to Fingerprinting and Background Clearances - **Memo #12**

I plan to introduce legislation to amend Title 35 (Health and Safety) by amending the requirement in Section 10225.502, "Information relating to prospective facility personnel" to permit an applicant to submit their Federal criminal history record information in a manner prescribed by the Department of Aging.

This legislation will allow the department flexibility to contract with vendors and update the process in which applicants may submit a set of fingerprints for criminal background checks for all caregivers. Currently, the Departments of Education, Public Welfare and Banking utilize this electronic fingerprinting and background checks. However, the Older Adult Protective Services Act requires the Department of Aging to only work with the State Police.

Providers has expressed concerns that in some instances they must secure three different FBI checks (Aging, DPW and Education) which results in significant delays in the hiring process and adds additional expense. The current process also requires applicants to travel to multiple locations.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Tiffany Price in my office at 717-787-6063 or by email at tprice@pasen.gov.

KLW/vjw