

**MIKE REESE, MEMBER
59TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Mike Reese *mlr*

DATE: February 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship: Strengthening Cash Assistance

I plan to introduce legislation that would amend the Public Welfare Code to strengthen the public assistance system in Pennsylvania.

Specifically, my bill would prohibit recipients of cash assistance from receiving cash through automated teller machines. Cash assistance benefits would only be provided at point-of-sale terminals when a recipient makes a legitimate purchase. The bill further limits purchases that can be made with cash assistance benefits and prohibits cash assistance benefits to be used to purchase tobacco products, beverages with alcoholic content, or lottery tickets or tickets for games of chance.

It has become apparent in recent years that there are too many leaks in the taxpayer dam with regard to public assistance benefits. With each passing day, more and more taxpayer dollars are being lost due to fraud and abuse. Every dollar wasted is a dollar that is not available to the families who truly need assistance. In the face of our current budget deficit, now more than ever, we must be vigilant in how we are using taxpayer dollars and ensuring these funds are directed to those who rightfully need assistance.

I urge all House members to support this bill for the benefit of Pennsylvania's truly needy individuals as well as the strength of our state's economy. If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Sam Myers at samyers@pahousegop.com or 783-9311.