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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ted Harhai

DATE: February 14, 2011

SUBJECT: **Co-Sponsorship – School Security Officer Training Act**

In the near future, I intend to reintroduce legislation (House Bill 1605 of 2009) that would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to create training, licensing and certification requirements for school security officers.

Under the provisions of this act, education and training will be required within one year of employment for all school security officers. Emphasis will be placed on professionalism, basic first aid and CPR, and working cooperatively with state and local police agencies. At least 60 hours of training will be necessary for certification and all school security officers will be required to complete a 20 hour re-certification course each year. The school district will pay for the initial certification of school security officers and for re-certification. The certification and re-certification requirements will ensure that all school security officers are properly trained and prepared for all situations.

Currently, there are school security officers and security guards employed by school districts across the Commonwealth. These individuals are responsible for securing school buildings and property, and ensuring the safety of students and staff in the educational environment. School security officers and security guards are different than school police officers, which are already included in the Public School Code of 1949. While school police officers may have the authority to arrest or detain students, issue a summary citation and enforce good order on school grounds,

the role of school security officers is to help to create a safe learning environment by ensuring the safety of school grounds, students and staff.

The School Security Officer Training Act will strengthen the safety of our public schools by ensuring that all security officers and guards are prepared for any and all situations that may arise. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Elisa Klee at 772-2820 or eklee@pahouse.net.