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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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February 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Cosponsor Memo – State Agency Bonus Ban Legislation
To: All House Members
From: Representative Thomas P. Murt

As you know, government reform is on the minds of constituents and legislators alike. I believe that one of the fundamental first steps toward improving ethical standards in Commonwealth operations is to ban state agency bonuses. Banning these payments is a simple way to correct a problem within the state system and to strengthen the people's trust in how their government is being run.

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that would prohibit any Commonwealth agency from paying a bonus to any of its employees. The ban will encompass agencies of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches and provides for few exceptions for certain types of payments such as expense reimbursements, severance and overtime payments, and annual cost-of-living adjustments.

Under the bill, bonuses made in violation of the act must be repaid and would not be included as compensation for the purpose of calculating employees' SERS or PSERS retirement benefits. Finally, this legislation requires that all employment contracts of a Commonwealth agency must be written and open to inspection.

Please join me in taking this important step toward improving state government operations and working to restore Pennsylvanians' faith in their government. If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, kindly e-mail my secretary, Amy Bossart at ABossart@pahousegop.com.