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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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February 7, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** Proposed Legislation  
Bill of Rights – Developmental Disabilities

**To:** All House Members

**From:** Representative Thomas P. Murt

I plan to introduce legislation that will establish a bill of rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This legislation affirms that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have full rights to enjoy the opportunity to live and participate in their homes and communities; independently make choices about their lives; contribute to society; and experience full integration and inclusion in the mainstream of society in this Commonwealth.

This legislation requires the Department of Public Welfare to develop and submit a plan to address the waiting list for community based mental retardation services, which is a distinct waiting list for persons with mental retardation that was developed in 1999. In the development of this plan, the Department is required to conduct public hearings and obtain public comment from individuals with mental retardation, their families and guardians and providers of services to the mental retardation community.

Funding for services will be made available across Pennsylvania taking into account the resources available to the Commonwealth and the needs of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, kindly e-mail my secretary, Amy Bossart, at [ABossart@pahousegop.com](mailto:ABossart@pahousegop.com).

TPM/ab