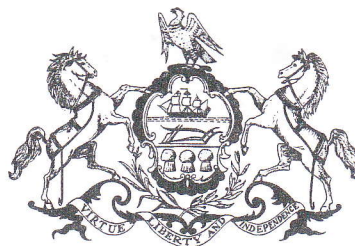


DAN DEASY, MEMBER
323 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202027
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2027
(717) 772-8187
FAX: (717) 787-7388

436 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 100
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15220
(412) 928-9514
FAX: (412) 565-3170

SATELLITE OFFICE:
AVALON BOROUGH BUILDING
640 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15202
(412) 761-5820, EXT.15
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DEASY



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 15, 2011

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Dan Deasy 

RE: **Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) Eligibility for Prelease**

In the near future I plan on introducing a very important bill that protects our citizens from murderers and rapists. Last year a 14 year old girl named Lauren Deis suffered a horrific fate at the hands of a sexual violent predator that had recently been placed on parole. Eleven months after being paroled, Tushon Brown brutally raped and murdered Lauren. He was placed on parole despite the pleadings of a district attorney who warned the parole board prior to Tushon's release that he was extremely dangerous and likely to "commit other sex crimes if released on parole."

As a result of this horrific crime and the system's failure to protect our citizens, I am introducing a piece of legislation that prohibits offenders who have ever been convicted of rape or murder from being paroled. Any person who has been found guilty of such a heinous crime should not be permitted to walk the streets until the fulfillment of his or her maximum sentence. Parole is a privilege not a right – it is certainly not a right that should be granted to offenders like Tushon Brown.

Furthermore, it has come to my attention that the Department of Corrections has a regulation that allows offenders to be given a status called 'prerelease' upon completion of half of their minimum sentence. An offender placed on prerelease status could be sent to a halfway house in our community. Currently, murders and rapists could be prereleased. My legislation prohibits the Department of Corrections from allowing anyone convicted of murder or rape from being given such a privilege.

It's time Pennsylvania stopped extending privileges to offenders convicted of murder or rape. It's time to keep these offenders behind bars and keep them away from our families. Please co-sponsor this critically important piece of legislation in honor of Lauren and others who have faced similar tragedies at the hands of offenders who should have been behind bars.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Louise Koppenheffer in my office at (717) 772-8187 or via email at lkoppenh@pahouse.net.