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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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February 17, 2011

TO: All members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Rep. Bill Kortz *BK*
RE: Request for co-sponsorship – Strengthening the contraband section of the Corrections Code, and adding telecommunications devices (cell phones) to the list of contraband list.

MEMORANDUM

I will soon be introducing legislation that will elevate the current policy of prohibiting telecommunications devices within the secured perimeter of correctional institutions into statute and make it a criminal offense.

It will also raise all second and subsequent violations of the correctional institution contraband section felonies of the third degree.

Illicit smuggling of telecommunications devices into jails, prisons, mental hospitals, etc. is a major problem which has been highlighted recently in the media. We have Department of Corrections policies prohibiting this, but my legislation would make a first offense a first degree misdemeanor. All subsequent convictions would be at least a third degree felony.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Stephanie Jackson in my office at sjackson@pahouse.net or at (717) 787-8175.