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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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February 16, 2011

TO: All members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Bill Kortz *BK*
Rep. Bryan Cutler *BC*

RE: Request for co-sponsorship – Altering the circumstances under which service of search and arrest warrants may be kept confidential

MEMORANDUM

I will soon be introducing legislation that will place into statute the circumstances under which the service of a search or arrest warrant may be published.

Under my legislation, all warrants would be subject to public disclosure 48 hours after execution of the warrant unless the issuing authority allows the sealing of the warrant, under carefully limited circumstances. If the publication of a warrant would endanger law enforcement or the investigation itself, a warrant could be sealed.

The issue of where to strike the balance between the public's right to know and the ability of law enforcement to maintain viable investigations can be difficult. I believe my bill finds the proper balance, and creates a uniform statewide standard.

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