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FEB 16 2011

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Senate of Pennsylvania

February 16, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM:  Senator Lisa Baker

SUBJECT: Luzerne County Juvenile Justice Reform Measures

In the near future, I plan to introduce a package of bills to provide remedies and reforms recommended by the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice or the Juvenile Law Center in response to the juvenile justice scandal that occurred in Luzerne County. The package will include individual bills to:

1. Prohibit the waiver of counsel in juvenile delinquency hearings.
2. Create a statewide office of Juvenile Justice Victim Advocate in the Office of the Victim Advocate.
3. Prohibit the use of handcuffs and shackles on youth in juvenile court.
4. Require juvenile court judges to state on the record how the disposition ordered furthers the goals of the Juvenile Act and the principles of balanced and restorative justice.
5. Expedite appellate review of delinquency proceedings.

If you wish to co-sponsor any or all of these proposals, please contact Liz Clancy at LClancy@pasen.gov or by phone at 787-7428.

Thank you.