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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Senators**

**FROM: Senator Tim Solobay**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TS' or 'Tim Solobay'.

**DATE: January 12, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo #2: Lupus Awareness and Education**

As a member of the lupus caucus, in the near future, I plan to introduce legislation providing for lupus awareness and education.

Each year, members of the lupus caucuses sponsor legislation for lupus awareness days and months and lupus action days and months. This bill will establish a more permanent program and a taskforce charged with the responsibility of working with government agencies to promote education about lupus' symptoms, treatment and whom it affects. This taskforce would work in conjunction with the Department of Public Health and other non-profits and agencies to form a coordinated plan of action for lupus awareness and education.

Recently, similar legislation became law in Illinois and the New York legislature is working on expanding its support of lupus research and education as well.

As you may know, lupus is an inflammatory disease in which an unstable immune system begins to attack its own tissue and organs. While most people experience milder cases of lupus, this disease can be fatal. To this day, the causes of lupus are unknown and there are no known permanent cures for it. Minority women are disproportionately diagnosed with lupus compared to other demographics; so much of the efforts will be especially geared toward African American, Latino, Asian and Native American communities.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Rachel Moore at [rmoore@pasenate.com](mailto:rmoore@pasenate.com) or 7-1463.