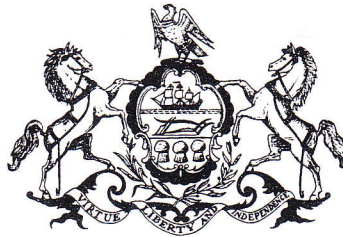


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: Rep. Mark Longietti

DATE: February 21, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship – Elimination of obligation of School Districts to fund cyber charter students who are below the minimum age

I invite your co-sponsorship of legislation that would eliminate the current obligation of School Districts to provide per pupil funding for students that are enrolled in a cyber charter school who are below the minimum age set by the school district for "beginners". For example, a school district located in my legislative district has set a minimum age of 5 years old for students to enroll in that school district. However, a 4 year old student living in that school district has enrolled in a cyber charter school, and the school district is required to pay for that student, under current law. I believe that this is both a costly and an unfair burden placed on local school districts.

As you know, Pennsylvania has established a quality early childhood education program through the Pre-K Counts initiative, which I believe has worked well. This program was not developed as a mandate on local school districts, which continue to have the responsibility to set their minimum age for enrollment. However, cyber charter schools, which are operating outside of Pre-K Counts, are now enrolling students below a school district's age for beginners. My legislation does not interfere with a cyber charter school's option to enroll these young students, but it does relieve school districts from the obligation to fund these students. As such, I believe it represents the closing of a loophole which exists in current law. I hope that you will agree and co-sponsor this legislation by contacting my assistant, Bob Brownawell at 772-4035 or by e-mail at rbrownaw@pahouse.net

FEB 25 2011