

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Eugene A. DePasquale
DATE: March 3, 2011
SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – Results-Based Accountability in Budgeting

In the future, I intend to introduce legislation that would amend Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to implement Results-Based Accountability in budgeting.

Currently, officials at all levels of government continue to grapple with the pain of the worldwide economic downturn. An optimist sees a benefit of these fiscal challenges in that they have forced civic leaders to reevaluate how public dollars are spent. While I applaud such austerity measures, we must be careful to not make the wrong cuts. Eliminating successful programs may save revenue in the short term, but cause disproportionate harm over time.

In an attempt to determine how, where and what to cut, I was impressed by the results-based accountability program designed by State Representative Diana Urban of Connecticut. Her program requires all Connecticut agencies to submit performance metrics with their budgets to objectively gauge relative efficacy. Such a program would serve the people of Pennsylvania well by delineating the successful programs from those that have not served us well. Accordingly, my legislation would charge the Independent Fiscal Office with crafting standards inspired by the Connecticut model for implementation beginning with the 2012-2013 state budget.

If you would like to join me co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Cynthia Clory at cclory@pahouse.net or 717.787.7514 (Caucus extension 6611).