

Memorandum

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Eugene DePasquale

DATE: March 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Requiring In-State Board Meetings

In the near future, I will introduce legislation to amend the Public School Code of 1949 to require universities within the State System of Higher Education and state-related colleges and universities to hold their board meetings within Pennsylvania.

The fourteen institutions that comprise the State System of Higher Education, as well as state-related universities such as Penn State and Temple, are a crucial component of Pennsylvania's overall educational system. These great institutions of learning educate hundreds of thousands of students every year in this state, making higher education possible for countless Pennsylvania families. As such, their contribution to the state's economy and overall quality of life cannot be downplayed.

Realizing the important role these universities play, the state allocates hundreds of millions of dollars each year to the support of these institutions. As you may know, Penn State University's Board of Trustees recently announced plans to hold a board meeting in New York City. At a time when state dollars are pressed thin, and state-affiliated and state-related universities could take an unprecedented monetary hit due to decreased state appropriations, all university Board of Trustees' meetings should be held within Pennsylvania. My legislation would require these institutions to hold such meetings within the state as a condition of state funding.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Cynthia Clory in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-7514 or cclory@pahouse.net.