

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Chris Sainato, Democratic Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: To Extend the Educational Leave of
Absence Status to Spouses (Former HB 592)

In the near future, I plan on introducing legislation allowing spouses the same military leave of absence from their education provided to any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces. This includes no loss of credits earned, scholarships or grants awarded, or tuition and other fees paid prior to the member being called to active duty.

This is an important issue for many Pennsylvania residents. Families often find themselves in difficult situations when a spouse is being deployed overseas. By allowing the spouse the same military educational leave of absence it provides the families with the flexibility they desperately need in order to best adapt to the challenges placed on their family when the member is called to active duty.

Section 7313 of Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes currently provides for any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces to be granted a military leave of absence from their education when called to active duty. After release from active military duty the members are to be restored to the same educational status they held prior to being activated.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please call Tracy Balistrere in my office at 772-2436, or e-mail at tbalistr@pahouse.net.