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March 21, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Kim Ward

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – **Methadone Restrictions Legislation – Memo # 21**

I plan to introduce two pieces of legislation relating to restrictions on methadone treatment services covered by Medicaid.

The first bill will amend the Public Welfare Code to require that the Department of Public Welfare (“DPW”) limit Medicaid payments to 30 months for clients receiving methadone treatment. This is based on the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Report (“LBFC”), pursuant to Senate Resolution 2010-348, which found that clients are in treatment an average of 27.3 months. In addition, this legislation will require DPW to establish stringent regulations for the inspection of methadone clinics. These regulations would include compliance with the federal requirements that clients receive a minimum of 2.5 hours of counseling per month, while in treatment.

The second bill will also amend the Public Welfare Code to restrict methadone clients who participate in the Medical Assistance Transportation Program, to four weeks of transportation, including both mileage reimbursement and paratransit services, to the clinic closest to their residence. The LBFC Report findings concluded that MA methadone maintenance transportation expenditures totaled \$32.5 million in fiscal year 2009-10. These total MATP payments were 1% of the total MA budget.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Tiffany Price in my office at 717-787-6063 or by email at tprice@pasen.gov.

KLW/vjw