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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ken Smith

DATE: March 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation Establishing a Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Prevention Fund

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that would establish a state-wide Drug and Alcohol Treatment Fund.

My legislation would dedicate a portion of the revenue from the existing liquor tax to three separate line items for drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs currently funded through annual appropriations to the Departments of Health, Public Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. I believe this approach can help us begin to better address the problem of drug and alcohol addiction in Pennsylvania.

While these line items do not represent all of the beneficial drug and alcohol related expenditures in the Commonwealth, they do represent a core nucleus of programs aimed at prevention, education, and remediation for drug and alcohol offenses and abuse. Because the Commonwealth often considers ways to increase revenues from the sale of liquor, it seems fitting that a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to the treatment of drug and alcohol abuse.

If you would like to join with me to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Julie in my office via email at jvarrish@pahouse.net.