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**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**Date: April 7, 2011**

**To: Colleagues in the House**

**From: Representative Kathy Watson**

**Subject: Co-sponsorship - PlanCon**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Watson".

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In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation amending the Public School Code of 1949 in order to require the Secretary and the State Board of Education to review and overhaul the Department of Education procedures for PlanCon review. School districts are facing increasing fiscal restraints, and I believe we must redefine this process to improve efficiency while also increasing accountability to, and transparency for, taxpayers.

When a school district undertakes a major school construction project and seeks reimbursement from the Commonwealth, the school district must adhere to a process known as PlanCon, an acronym for Planning and Construction Workbook. This process requires that a set of forms and procedures be followed and completed in order to apply for Commonwealth reimbursement. Commonwealth review is essential to ensure proper use of taxpayer money. However, this process has become bureaucratic, time-consuming, and costly.

This bill calls for the Department of Education in conjunction with the State Board of Education to review the process by which the department is meeting the requirements of PlanCon; to make recommendations to eliminate the backlog waiting for review, to increase efficiency of the process, to ensure ease of compliance with the requirements for those entities that must comply with them; and among other things, to make recommendations to the General Assembly to order to provide for an increase in local involvement and to provide for any statutory changes necessary to improve the planning and construction process.

Too many times school districts have not listened to the wishes of their local taxpayers when making decisions regarding how and if new construction projects are implemented. This current practice leads to an increased burden on the local taxpayer.

Respectfully, I invite you to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation. You may do so by contacting Meredith Schuler in my office at 787-5452 or [mschuler@pahousegop.com](mailto:mschuler@pahousegop.com). Thank you.