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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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Memorandum

To: All House Members
From: Representative Stanley E. Saylor 
Date: April 21, 2011
Re: Proposed Legislation—Political Robo Call Disclosure

Pennsylvanians have the right to know who is calling their phone and conveying messages about a legislative measure or political candidate, via a mechanism we refer to as “robo calls”. These abusive phone calls go well beyond the protections of political speech. They are becoming an unwelcome staple of many campaigns and made worse with the recent trend of political consulting firms manipulating caller ID devices to make it seem as if the calls were coming from emergency officials, or that the automated call attacking a candidate was coming from his own campaign.

In a new era of government transparency, I will be introducing legislation prohibiting anonymous political robo calls (the promoting, or any other use related to, a political campaign or for a political purpose). My legislation will amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) making it a misdemeanor punishable by a sentence of not more than one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$500 for political robo calls which violate Pa Code § 63.60, which requires a statement announcing the name, address and call-back telephone number of the calling party. This allows our constituency to know who is making a political robo call so they can decide its merit for themselves.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact my office at 783-6426 or by email to cwalker@pahousegop.com or jdougher@pahousegop.com.