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## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO: All House Members**

**FROM: Representative Doug Reichley**

**DATE: May 5, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Co-Sponsor Memo-Primary Stroke Center Designation Legislation**

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will direct the Department of Health to designate primary stroke centers in Pennsylvania and enhance the emergency medical services as an important link to the stroke system of care in the Commonwealth.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. and in Pennsylvania. It is also one of the leading causes of long-term disability. In Pennsylvania, more than 6,600 people died from a stroke in 2008. When a stroke occurs, minutes count. Rapid response and treatment can make the difference between life and death. Unfortunately, a fragmented and disorganized delivery system prohibits patients from receiving the treatments that can improve or even save their lives. We need to be sure that systems are in place to give stroke patients the best chance of survival with minimal lasting effects.

Primary Stroke Centers (PSCs), certified by the Joint Commission, are acute care hospitals that make exceptional efforts to ensure it is equipped to provide the rapid and specialized care needed to treat stroke patients. In addition to establishing these centers, this legislation will raise public awareness of stroke, and facilitate the development of stroke treatment capabilities across the state.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Kendra Wiederhold in my Harrisburg office at 787-1000 or [kwiederh@pahousegop.com](mailto:kwiederh@pahousegop.com).