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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

MEMORANDUM

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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Sandra J. Major *SJM*

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – Check Off for Spinal Cord Injury Research

DATE: May 11, 2011

As of 2008, approximately 255,702 people were living in the United States with spinal cord injuries, with an annual average of 12,000 new injuries per year. Of these totals, 52% of these individuals are considered paraplegics, while another 47% are considered quadriplegics. Unfortunately, the treatments associated with spinal cord injuries are very costly, and there is no guarantee that employed remedies will be successful.

With the cost associated with spinal cord remedies and research in mind, I will be introducing legislation in the near future which will amend the Tax Reform Code to provide for spinal cord research funds. If enacted, my legislation will establish an income tax return “check off” where taxpayers will be able to contribute to research relating to spinal cord injuries. Further, my legislation will also create the Spinal Cord Research Fund which will serve as the location in which donated funds will be maintained. Annually, the Secretary of Health will be responsible for disbursing these funds in the form of grants to entities located in Pennsylvania that conduct spinal cord research.

By providing for this “check off,” residents across the Commonwealth will be able to contribute funds in order to assist individuals who are forced to cope with a spinal cord injury. If you wish to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Jennifer Harrison at 783-2910 or jharriso@pahousegop.com.

SJM/ts