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*90<sup>th</sup> Legislative District*

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## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Todd A. Rock  
90<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**DATE:** May 25, 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Legislation – The Strike Free Education Act (Prior HB 1369).**

In the near future, I will be re-introducing legislation entitled The Strike-Free Education Act.

There are thirty-seven other states that guarantee their school children the legal right to an uninterrupted, strike-free public education. During the 2009-10 school year, **Pennsylvania** once again maintained its status as the undisputed **Teacher Strike Capitol** of the **United States** with approximately **34,900** students locked out of the classroom. The highlights of this new bill are:

#### Protecting children and families

- Strikes and lockouts are illegal (defined penalties for illegal work stoppage)

#### Protecting taxpayers

- No binding arbitration
- Tentative contract agreement made public before final vote taken
- No retroactive payments after old contract expires

#### Protecting teachers

- Guaranteed mediation, fact-finding, non-binding arbitration, public transparency meetings and mandatory negotiating. Teachers opposed to strikes guaranteed the ability to work.

- Respecting the Constitution and collecting bargaining intent
- School and union officials must reach a mutually acceptable agreement. Neither side, nor any third party, has the right to impose a contract settlement. Increasing levels of public scrutiny are designed to encourage early settlement and avoid extreme negotiating positions.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Heather Rodgers by phone at 783-5218 or via e-mail at [hrodgers@pahousegop.com](mailto:hrodgers@pahousegop.com). Thank you for your consideration.

TR/hr