

SCOTT PERRY, MEMBER
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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Scott Perry *SGP*
92nd Legislative District

DATE: June 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship - executive and legislative COLAs dependent on state revenue estimates being met (**Prior HB 113 of 2009-2010 session**)

As you likely know, the Commonwealth has faced significant budget deficits over the past several fiscal years. While the worldwide economic downturn has certainly played a role in these deficits, irresponsible spending is a primary factor as well. In the past, it had become common practice for the Administration to manipulate revenue estimates to be overly optimistic in order to justify a higher level of spending.

I believe that in order to curb spending and to take control of the Commonwealth's fiscal problems, we must begin the process with realistic revenue projections which can be met, and discourage cushioned estimates that are merely intended to validate more spending. Further, it is my opinion that a penalty should be in place in order to encourage truthful and accurate assessments of the amount of money the Commonwealth can expect to collect.

I intend to introduce legislation that would amend the Public Official Compensation Law so that the current annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for executive branch officials and members of the General Assembly will only be granted if revenues collected by the Commonwealth as of October 1 of each year meet or exceed projections for the first quarter of the fiscal year according to the final revenue estimates established by the Department of Revenue and signed by the Governor. It is my hope that making the annual COLA dependent on meeting revenue projections will be an incentive to develop more practical estimates, which are necessary to set forth a truly sound and responsible spending plan.

Should you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lisa Seilhammer at 783-8783 or through e-mail at lseilham@pahousegop.com

Previous co-sponsors: CUTLER , GROVE, KAUFFMAN , MILLER , MOUL , MUSTIO , SCAVELLO , SWANGER , VULAKOVICH , WATSON , BEAR , BOYD , GINGRICH , ROAE , CREIGHTON and MURT