



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jennifer L. Mann, Democratic Caucus Secretary *JLM*

DATE: May 23, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation Supporting Surviving
Relatives of Emergency First Responders (**Former HB 1758**)

When a law enforcement officer is called to respond to an emergency, they do so without hesitation and with a sense of duty to keep the peace. Firefighters rush into burning buildings putting the safety of others before their own personal well-being. Ambulance or rescue crews and hazardous materials response teams think first of saving lives when responding to dangerous situations rather than their own lives. I believe that we have a responsibility to provide these individuals who so selflessly serve their communities with peace-of-mind that their families will be provided for, even in the event of their death in the line of duty.

That is why I plan, in the near future, to introduce legislation that would amend the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act. My legislation will allocate that, in the event of a first-responder's death in the line of duty, benefits be paid *directly* to surviving spouses, minor children, or parents of the deceased and it will also increase the benefit amount to \$250,000.

If you would like to become a co-sponsor, please contact Kira Zickler in my office via e-mail at kzickler@pahouse.net.