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JUN 15 2011



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Senate of Pennsylvania

MEMO

DATE: June 14, 2011
TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Bob Mensch *ROM*
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship # 7 - Children's Trust Fund Check-Off on Tax Returns

I am introducing legislation to amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971 to create a tax check-off line for the Children's Trust Fund for state tax filings.

The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established by the Children's Trust Fund Act in December 1988 to provide grant funding for community-based programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. Special emphasis for CTF investments is placed on primary prevention programs, which focus on the prevention of abuse before it occurs for the first time. Applicants in 2010 are also required to utilize evidence- or research-based methods to coach family care providers in effective strategies to strengthen families.

CTF funds are generated by \$10 surcharges placed on applications for marriage licenses and divorce filings. As a member of the CTF Board, I know the CTF needs more funds to better support programs aimed to protect Pennsylvania's children. My bill seeks to enhance CTF's revenues by adding an opportunity for an individual to voluntarily designate a contribution to CTF when he or she files a Pennsylvania income tax return. The amount designated would be deducted from the tax refund to which the individual is entitled and would not constitute a charge against the income tax revenues due to the Commonwealth.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or if you have any questions, please call Geri Sarfert at (717) 787-3110 or email her at gsarfert@pasen.gov.

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