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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Kerry Benninghoff and Representative Harry Readshaw

Kerry A. Benninghoff Harry P. Readshaw

DATE: June 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Legislation allowing Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners to sign death certificates.

We will soon be introducing legislation that would amend the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to allow a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) to sign a death certificate for a patient under the care of that CRNP.

Currently, a CRNP may treat a patient, understand the cause of death, and pronounce death but is not permitted to sign a death certificate. As you can imagine, it can be a great inconvenience to all involved, especially the family, when a physician is unavailable to sign a death certificate. This legislation will ease the difficulty that occurs but will not impact deaths that would involve a coroner or medical examiner.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Amy Noel anoel@pahousegop.com in Representative Benninghoff's office at (717) 783-1918 prior to close of business on June 23, 2011 as this legislation is scheduled for introduction on the morning of June 24, 2011.