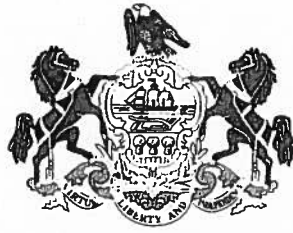


**JIM CHRISTIANA, MEMBER
15TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Harrisburg
June 15, 2011

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
CHILDREN & YOUTH

53-B EAST WING
PO BOX 202015
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2015
(717) 260-6144 PHONE
(717) 260-6506 FAX

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FR: REPRESENTATIVE JIM CHRISTIANA
RE: STUDENTS & SCHOOL RESCUE ACT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", written over the recipient information.

I intend to introduce legislation that will create the Students & School Rescue Act. This act will rescue students from low-income families that attend failing schools. This bill will also provide the opportunity for middle-income family children to choose an alternative education system through an expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.

This Act will create a school voucher that will commence with the 2012-13 school year and will be available to low-income children who (1) attended a low achieving school during the 2011-12 school year or will enroll in kindergarten in a low achieving for the 2012-13 school year; and (2) will reside within the attendance boundary of a low achieving school as of the first day of class. A low achieving school district will be defined as the lowest performing 10% of school districts.

The legislation will also increase the availability of educational opportunities by providing scholarships for tuition for a middle income child to attend a nonresident public school or a participating non-public school. This legislation will incorporate the language expanding this successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit as passed in House Bill 1330.

For the purposes of calculating the voucher, the base amount shall be equal to 100% of the Commonwealth's share of the resident school district's total revenue per average daily membership, as defined, for the prior school year. The base amount will be multiplied by the appropriate factor as provided in the legislation to determine each opportunity recipient's actual voucher amount. The factors are based upon household income as a percentage of the Federal poverty line (FPL) for the prior school year. The enumerated factors will be as follows:

- Up to 100% of the FPL: 1.0;
- 101% to 150% of the FPL: .90;
- 151% to 200% of the FPL: .75; and,
- 201% to 250% of the FPL: .50.

The legislation will charge the Department of Education with promulgating regulations according to guidelines that will be specifically enumerated in the bill within 120 days of the effective date. The regulations will be subject to approval of the Education Opportunity Board, established in the legislation initially as a three-member board appointed by the Governor to serve four year terms. Upon expiration of the initial terms or vacancies, the new appointees will be subject to advice and consent of the Senate.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please contact Sandra Pancoe in my Harrisburg office at 717-260-6144 or sapancoe@pahousegop.com and add your name to the list of cosponsors of this legislation.