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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Matt Smith

DATE: June 22, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Wearing of Military Uniforms at High School Graduation

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that will amend the Public School Code of 1949 to allow students to wear military uniforms at high school graduation ceremonies. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this effort.

The young men and women that comprise the United States Armed Forces put their lives on the line everyday for the defense of this country. As a nation, we owe our freedom to the brave souls who risked and continue to risk everything so we can be free. Today, as our nation confronts military challenges around the globe, the young individuals who decide to join the military and defend this country should be awarded special recognition for their sacrifice.

Currently, local school districts have the discretion to determine what students will wear at graduation ceremonies. Unfortunately, there have been recent instances in which a request by a student to wear their military uniform at graduation has been denied by school officials. My legislation would allow students who have completed basic training, as well as all of their high school graduation requirements, to wear their military dress uniforms at high school graduation ceremonies.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jamie Fetter at (717) 783-1850 or jfetter@pahouse.net.