



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Brendan Boyle

DATE: July 18, 2011

RE: Introduction of Legislation-Prohibiting Commonwealth Agencies from Contracting with Sweatshops

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to amend Title 62 (Procurement), which would ban Commonwealth agencies from entering into contractual agreements for apparel and apparel laundering services with business who entertain “sweatshop” practices.

As we all know, the Pennsylvania Department of General Services’ bidding processes is long, and often contentious. When forced to bid for state procurement contracts against businesses that utilize sweatshop conditions, legitimate providers of apparel and apparel laundering services are placed at a competitive disadvantage. As Pennsylvania is a large producer of goods and services, we must use the state’s stature and leadership as a market participant to promote fair treatment of the workforce and the elimination of sweatshop conditions.

My legislation seeks to provide standards for the apparel manufactures and apparel laundering service providers, and their subcontractors, with which a Commonwealth agency may enter a contractual agreement. The language provides for sanctions against business entities that falsify certifications and retaliate against employees who report alleged violations or “sweatshop” practices. Also, my bill provides for exemptions for apparel manufactured and laundering services provided under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

This legislation is similar to Executive Order 2004-04, issued by Governor Rendell. While the executive order remains in effect, my legislation would codify the Commonwealth’s stance against “sweatshop” practices into law.

Should you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Kristen Womelsdorf at 787-3055, or email kwomelsd@pahouse.net.