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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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Memo

DATE: July 22, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Louise Williams Bishop, Chairwoman
House Children and Youth Committee 

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship legislation
The reporting of sex offenses against children directly to law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania

I plan to introduce legislation that would add a section to Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) which would prosecute anyone who has knowledge that sex offenses are occurring against children but fail to report the incidents to law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania.

According to a 2010 child abuse annual report by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, 24,615 reports of suspected overall child abuse were received at Childline and investigated by DPW's regional staff or a county agency. Childline and Abuse Registry is a central clearinghouse for all investigated reports. Professionals who come into contact with children during the course of their employment, occupation or practice of profession are required to report when they have reasonable cause that a child is being abused.

My legislation, however, would require that any sexual abuse be reported directly to law enforcement agencies.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Heather via email at hwalsh@pahouse.net or by calling my office at 783-2192. Thank you.