

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 15, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Babette Josephs

SUBJECT: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Studying The Financial Impact Of State Sponsored Unfunded Mandates

I will soon introduce three bills that would, if enacted, bring some clarity to the issue of state sponsored unfunded mandates. Several bills are now under consideration in the State Government Committee, the Labor and Industry Committee and the Judiciary Committee that deal with state and local government implementation and enforcement of federal immigration laws - the theme is National Security Begins at Home.” Many bills are based on legislation passed in Arizona and many have their roots in model legislation crafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an entity that flies under the colors of conservative, grass-roots politics, but which in reality fosters an agenda important to big industry and big business interested in weakening legitimate government operations.

Beyond the issue of the legislations’ antecedents, the bills will all exact costs to be borne somehow by state, county and local governments – and this at a time when state, county and local governments are severely stressed to deliver even basic services. The legislation gives little or no information as to how the tab will be paid.

I will be offering one Concurrent Resolution directing the Bipartisan Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (itself severely cut in the current budget) to study the financial impact on State government of this series of bills, all of which deal with state and local efforts on immigration and national security. The Committee would be required to report to the Governor, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House within 30 days of the adoption of the resolution.

The second Concurrent Resolution directs the Local Government Commission (which lost 27% of its funding over the next three years) to study the financial impact on political subdivisions in the Commonwealth of the same series of bills. The Commission would be required to report to the Governor, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House within 30 days of the adoption of the resolution.

Finally, I will introduce legislation mandating that the new Independent Fiscal Office study and analyze the fiscal impact of legislation that involves State government and political subdivisions in matters that are national in scope.

Please contact Ms. Jennifer Belz in my Harrisburg office at JBelz@pahouse.net or at (717) 787-8529 to co-sponsor this legislation. Thank you!