

RICK SACCONI, MEMBER
39TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PO Box 202039
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2039
Phone: (717) 260-6122

rsaccone@pahousegop.com
www.RepSaccone.com



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1002 Old Hickory Lane
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025
Phone: (412) 653-1025
Fax: (412) 653-1275

Memorandum

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Rick Saccone
DATE: September 12, 2011
RE: Co-sponsorship of legislation – Disparity of Force

This past spring, the Pennsylvania General Assembly made a great stride forward in not only protecting the citizens of Pennsylvania, but allowing them to protect themselves, with the passage of House Bill 40, the Castle Doctrine. However, our mission to enable Pennsylvanians to protect and defend themselves is not over. In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will increase the effectiveness of the Castle Doctrine.

My legislation will strengthen the language to the Castle Doctrine, adding the concept of “disparity of force”. Currently, to be protected by the Castle Doctrine concept, the law requires that an attacker must display a “firearm or any other weapon readily or apparently capable of lethal use” before an individual can use lethal force. In cases where an individual or group of assailants place another individual in a life threatening situation without being in possession of a lethal weapons, we must enable these people to take the proper actions in order to prevent themselves from becoming victims. This legislation will provide Castle Doctrine protections for allow the use of lethal force in cases where an individual possesses the physical power, stature, or ability to inflict serious harm or death upon another person or in a case where the individuals using the force outnumber the victim such as he or she may fear serious bodily harm or death.

I urge you all to co-sponsor this legislation to increase the effectiveness of the Castle Doctrine. The citizens of Pennsylvania have a natural right to defend themselves and we must ensure that they are not unreasonably hindered from doing so. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Susan Peirson at 717-260-6122 or speirson@pahousegop.com.