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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Ronald G. Waters

Date: September 19, 2011

Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship

In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution requesting the United States' Surgeon General study and recommend, if merited, clear health warnings on electronic devices.

In a study released May 31, 2011 by the World Health Organization (WHO), a team of 31 scientists from 14 countries, classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (those commonly associated with cell phone use) as possibly carcinogenic to humans. According to Dr. Jonathan Samet, the chair of the WHO working group, "the evidence, while still accumulating, is strong enough to support a conclusion and a 2B classification. The conclusion means that there could be some risk, and therefore we need to keep a close watch for a link between cell phones and cancer risk."

Interestingly, while mobile phone firms have seen fit to make warnings of potential harm from their units, they have been suspected of making those warnings difficult to locate and to understand.

Additionally, there are pioneering studies on both the thermal and radiologic effects of using laptop computers on male fertility. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health's article dated December 9, 2010, *Laptops May Threaten Male Fertility*, the heat emitted from the use of laptop computers has been seen to cause a measureable reduction in male fertility. Conversely, the radiologic effects of using a Wi-Fi connected laptop has also been linked to reduced sperm count, according to research presented at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine 66th Annual Meeting on November 5, 2010.

In light of this research and in keeping with the health interests of the population at large, we will request that the United States' Surgeon General's office study the empirical evidence regarding potential harm from electronic devices. If such a general warning is merited, we would request their dissemination of such along with specific guidelines as to how those warnings are to be listed by electronics manufacturers.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you'd like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Danielle Bowers at (717) 772-6955 or via e-mail at dbowers@pahouse.net.