

KATHY L. RAPP, MEMBER
65TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DEPUTY WHIP

CAUCUSES
ALZHEIMER'S
AUTISM
LIBERTY
PRO-LIFE
TIMBER



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION
FINANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
VETERANS AFFAIRS &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

APPOINTMENTS
LEGISLATIVE FORESTRY
TASKFORCE OF JOINT
LEGISLATIVE AIR & WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL &
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

September 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative. Kathy L. Rapp
SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation "ENGLISH CDL TESTS"

Currently, you must be able to read and speak English to drive trucks in the United States. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) require all drivers operating trucks in the United States to be able to read and speak the English language sufficiently to: converse with the general public; understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language; respond to official inquiries; and make entries on reports and records.

To verify English language proficiency FMCSA inspectors conduct driver interviews during a roadside driver/vehicle inspection. The driver interview is conducted in English. If the driver is unable to understand and respond to official inquiries and directions in English, the driver can be placed out of service. If the driver is placed out of service he or she will not be able to drive trucks in the United States until the driver can demonstrate they can understand and respond to official inquires and directions in the English language.

Yet, PennDOT by law must administer the CDL knowledge tests in both the English and Spanish languages. I feel that aside from being inconsistent with Federal law and sending the wrong message to potential drivers it puts our constituents at considerable risk on the highway.

Therefore, I plan to introduce legislation to eliminate the Spanish language requirement for CDL tests from the Vehicle Code.

If you would like to join me as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Annette at 787-1367 or email amioff@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

Harrisburg Office:
Warren Office:
Kane Office:

P.O. Box 202065 - Harrisburg, PA 17120-2065 - Phone: (717) 787-1367 - Fax: (717) 787-5854
404 Market Street - Warren, PA 16365 - Phone: (814) 723-5203 - Fax: (814) 728-3564
8 Field Street - Kane, PA 16735 - Phone: (814) 837-0880 - Fax: (814) 837-2257