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Senate of Pennsylvania

REPLY TO:

TO:

All Senators

DATE: September 30, 2011

FROM:

Senator Christine M. Tartaglione

Christine M. Gastaglione

SUBJECT:

Co-sponsorship of Resolution:

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

I intend to introduce a Resolution observing the 3rd day of December as International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Globally, almost one in ten people is a person living with a disability. Recent studies indicate that persons with disabilities constitute up to 20% of the population living in poverty in developing countries. Many people with disabilities continue to face barriers to their participation in their communities and are often forced to live on the margins of society. They often face stigma and discrimination and are routinely denied basic rights such as food, education, employment, access to health and reproductive health services. Many are forced into institutions which are a direct breach of their rights to freedom of movement and to live in their communities.

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and the rights of persons with disabilities. The day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact my office at 787-1141 or e-mail Sherry Hess at shess@pasenate.com.