

**RANDY VULAKOVICH, MEMBER
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 7, 2011
SUBJECT: Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Legislation
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Randy Vulakovich

I am preparing to introduce legislation that would amend the Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers Act to allow medically and technology dependent children to utilize these centers until they reach 21 years of age.

Currently, Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PECC's) provide nonresidential care for children under age nine that require continuous medical supervision and/or therapeutic intervention. Presently PECC's must cease providing services when a child turns 9 years of age. I believe that the age limit for these centers was established somewhat arbitrarily, and families with medically or technology dependent children face an extraordinary dilemma about what to do with these children when they become too old to utilize PECC's. Extending this service to children until they are 21 years-old could provide an ideal option for a number of children whose medical condition prevents them from attending school or causes a need for services that wrap around school sessions. Current alternatives to this care are usually hospitalization, in-home nursing care or medical foster parents.

I have personally met with constituents who benefit greatly from the services of a PECC in my community, and I share their concerns for children who need, but cannot legally utilize these important services after age eight.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Patricia Geiger in my office at 260-6407 or pgeiger@pahousegop.com.