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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Mike Fleck
DATE: October 5, 2011
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship – DOC Nurse Privatization



In the very near future, I will be introducing a bill that will prohibit the outsourcing of nursing services in our state correctional institutions.

While there will be plenty of time to debate the privatization of a broad array of state services and I applaud Governor Corbett for empaneling a task force to do a comprehensive study, I firmly believe that one place we should not consider this path is within the walls of our correctional system. Corrections is a core state service and the work provided by public sector nurses is an important component of corrections. Department of Corrections nurses are an integral part of the state security structure and they have the training and experience needed to provide both safety and security. Any effort to outsource these services puts both our communities and workforce at risk.

The nurses who work within the system are, in fact, part of a comprehensive system of security that allows us to safely house our already-overburdened prison population. And while it is certainly debatable that privatization will save tax dollars, what is not debatable is that the current system works well and provides an important firewall against a potential public health crisis.

I invite you to join me as a co-sponsor on this important piece of legislation. Please call Kelly Moyer in my office at 717-787-3335 or via email at Kmoyer@pahousegop.com.