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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 12, 2011  
**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Rep. Michael P. McGeehan  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship – Child Sex Abuse as Exception to Sovereign Immunity Defense

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As a general rule, “sovereign immunity” traditionally insulates governmental units, educational institutions and public officials from liability for negligent acts that a public employee commits within the scope of their official duties. Pennsylvania’s sovereign immunity statute provides immunity from lawsuits for Commonwealth entities, however there are nine exceptions where the protection of sovereign immunity will not apply. Also under Chapter 85 of Title 42 Pa.C.S. is a sovereign immunity statute for local governmental entities, with eight exceptions to sovereign immunity protection.

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation which will add an exception to the state and local governmental sovereign immunity statutes whereby the defense of sovereign immunity cannot be invoked for claims for damages caused by child sex abuse.

If you would like to co-sponsor this measure, please respond to this email or contact my research analyst, Eric Nelson, at 772-4029 or via e-mail at [enelson@pahouse.net](mailto:enelson@pahouse.net). Thank you.