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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2011
TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Tony Payton
SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo—Reintroduction of HB 2684 of 2010 Amending the Dental Law

In the near future I plan to reintroduce HB 2684 of 2010, which amends the Dental Law to make it easier for the three dental schools in the Commonwealth—the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University—to attract and retain dental educators, particularly those dentists who are foreign trained.

As it is currently written, the Dental Law states that the “practice of dentistry” includes “[t]he practice of dentistry by a duly licensed practitioner of dentistry of any other state or country for the limited purpose of teaching, including clinical teaching, in a dental school or advanced dental education program in the Commonwealth approved by the board after notification to the board and in accordance with board regulations. **Appointments shall not exceed four (4) years** and may be extended if the practitioner receives a license from the board.” The four-year limit for appointments is a significant handicap for the three dental schools in the Commonwealth in recruiting and retaining qualified teaching professionals. It is prohibitively difficult for foreign trained dental practitioners to satisfy both their professional responsibilities and the personal education requirements necessary to obtain unrestricted licensure within the four year time period.

My legislation creates a restricted licensure classification for teachers of dentistry under the State Board of Dentistry and also increases the time limit from four years to six years. Additionally, this bill would create a restricted license, renewable biannually, for foreign trained practitioners who have successfully completed a specialty dentistry program approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and who wish to teach at a Pennsylvania dental school. A teacher of dentistry with a restricted license will be limited to practice dentistry only for the purpose of teaching and only at the school where the practitioner is licensed to teach.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Tajuanna Franklin at (717) 787-1354 or tfranklin@pahouse.net.