

DOUGLAS G. REICHLEY, MEMBER
134TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
ROOM 5, EAST WING
PO BOX 202134
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2134
PHONE: (717) 787-1000
FAX: (717) 705-7012

DISTRICT OFFICE
1245 CHESTNUT STREET, UNIT #5
EMMAUS, PA 18049
PHONE: (610) 965-9933
FAX: (610) 965-9174

SATELLITE OFFICE
BALLY BROOK INDUSTRIAL PARK
20 N. FRONT STREET, SUITE 7
BALLY, PA 19503-9605
PHONE: (610) 845-1425
FAX: (610) 845-1427
E-mail: dreichle@pahousegop.com



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Rep. Doug Reichley
DATE: October 27, 2011
SUBJECT: Co-Sponsor Memo

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to require professional licensees under the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs who are mandated reporters of child abuse to complete two hours of continuing education in the identification and reporting of such abuse.

The Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa. C.S. Chapter 63) currently requires licensed professionals, who in the practice of their profession come into contact with children, to report suspected cases of child abuse. The law required the licensing boards to promulgate regulations on the responsibilities of mandated reporters. These regulations have been in place since 1996. However, these boards do not currently require continuing education on the subject of child abuse, and many mandated reporters are not familiar with their reporting obligations or how to identify cases.

This legislation would impose a two hour requirement in child abuse reporting obligations only for purposes of license renewal, not for initially obtaining a professional license. This is in conformity with the amount of hours of continuing education already imposed on licensed professionals for license renewal. I believe this requirement will better protect children, and assist these professionals in complying with their mandated obligation.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Kendra Wiederhold in my Harrisburg office at 787-1000 or kwiederh@pahousegop.com.