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DATE: November 9, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Dan Deasy

SUBJECT: **Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**

I plan to introduce legislation expanding the requirements on the mandatory reporting of suspected sexual abuse of a child to law enforcement.

I was saddened to learn about recent reports by the Attorney General that there were individuals that had direct knowledge of alleged sexual crimes against children and did not report it to law enforcement.

My legislation would require an individual who witnesses or an individual who is told by a direct witness about a sexual crime against a child to report it to law enforcement. Failure to report such violations could result in a third degree felony charge which carries a sentence of up to seven years in jail.

The current mandatory reporting law only requires individuals to report such instances to their direct supervisor or authority of the institution. The law pertains to those who work with children directly including physicians, nurses, teachers, and social workers.

The reporting of a sexual offense against a child is the moral and ethical thing to do. I want to make it the legal thing to do and I hope all of you, on both sides of the aisle, will join me in standing up for our children.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Louise in my Harrisburg office at 772-8187 or email her at lkoppenh@pahouse.net.