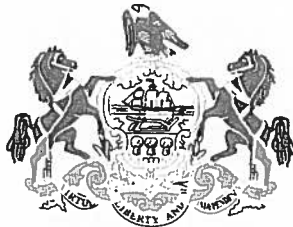


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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Tim Krieger ^{TAK}
57th Legislative District

SUBJECT: Cosponsor Request to Legislation Requiring All Recipients of
Public Assistance to Submit to Periodic Drug Testing

In the near future, I will introduce legislation to require all recipients of public assistance to submit to periodic drug testing. Public assistance is designed to be a temporary bridge to help impoverished citizens obtain the skills necessary to join the workforce and achieve self-sufficiency, a purpose that is completely thwarted when the recipient is using illegal substances.

This is a bold proposal designed to confront the attitude that welfare is a right to be abused, rather than a privilege that comes with certain responsibilities. No one has the right to receive public benefits while using illegal substances. As legislators, it is our responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being used to subsidize drug use.

While Act 22 of 2011, which established a drug testing program for public assistance recipients with previous felony drug convictions, represented a small first step, I believe that the drug testing program should be expanded to all recipients.

There is broad national support for this issue, as evidenced by the dozens of states that have taken steps to require drug testing of all welfare recipients. It is time for Pennsylvania to join those states in taking a stand and declare that all recipients of public assistance are expected to remain drug-free while they are receiving benefits.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact my secretary, Nancy Shenk, at 717-260-6146 or via email at nshenk@pahousegop.com. Thank you.