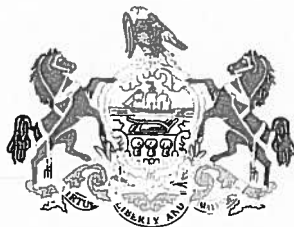


**KAREN BOBACK, MEMBER
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November 28, 2011

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation – Prostate Cancer Screenings

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Karen Boback
Room 141-B, East Wing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Boback".

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution memorializing Congress in its health care reform decisions to apply the American Cancer Society's guidelines for prostate cancer screening.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), is the leading independent panel of private-sector experts in prevention and primary care. However, on October 11, 2011, the USPSTF released a report recommending against the use of the prostate specific antigen (PSA) based screening for prostate cancer.

While prostate cancer can often be found early by testing the amount of (PSA) through a blood test, there are limits to the PSA test, which is not 100% accurate and treatments for prostate cancer can have side effects that may seriously affect a man's quality of life.

However, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that prostate cancer is the most common cancer among American men and is the second-leading cause of cancer death among American men. The USPSTF acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed nonskin cancer in men in the United States, with a lifetime risk of diagnosis currently estimated at 15.9%.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that in 2008, 10,098 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, the largest number of all cancer cases diagnosed in men in Pennsylvania (26.5 %). and was responsible for the deaths of 1,451 men. Since the early 1990's,

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the incidence of prostate cancer and deaths from prostate cancer has been declining.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation and the American Urological Association support the continued use of PSA screening and urge men to speak with their physicians about the value of prostate cancer testing. In addition, the American Cancer Society recommends that men should have a discussion with their health care provider in order to make an informed decision about whether to be screened for prostate cancer.

If you would like to join me in the sponsorship of this resolution, please contact my office through GroupWise at Brenda Zablotsky, email at bzablots@pahousegop.com or call 787-1117.

KB:brz