

MATT SMITH, MEMBER
42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
323 MAIN CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 202042
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2042
(717) 783-1850
FAX: (717) 780-4756

319 CASTLE SHANNON BOULEVARD
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15234
(412) 571-2169
FAX: (412) 571-2000

E-MAIL: mhsmith@pahouse.net
WEBSITE: www.pahouse.com/msmith



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Matt Smith

DATE: December 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship memo – “Diabetes Month” in Pennsylvania

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution designating January 2012 as “Diabetes Month” in Pennsylvania.

Diabetes is a lifetime disease in which an individual’s pancreas does not produce or properly use insulin. Although the cause of diabetes is not certain, genetics and lifestyle factors, such as obesity and lack of physical activity, seem to be related to its development. It affects approximately 26 million men, women and children across the United States annually and costs over \$174 billion to treat. In addition, diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness in people 20 to 74, and can lead to other complications involving heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, nerve disease and amputation.

However, proper management of diabetes through control of blood glucose levels, diet, and exercise can help manage the disease and prevent serious and possibly life threatening complications. Accordingly, I plan to introduce this resolution to highlight the importance of diabetes education in improving the quality of life for people afflicted with the disease and reducing healthcare costs.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Jamie Fetter at (717) 783-1850 or jfetter@pahouse.net.