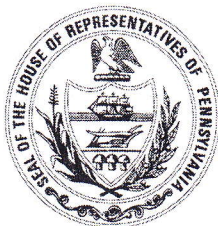


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members
From: Representative Michelle F. Brownlee
Date: December 22, 2011
Re: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – **Mentor Protégé Program**

In the near future, I will reintroduce **HB2145**, which amended Title 62 (Procurement) to require the Department of General Services (DGS) to establish a mentor protégé program. HB2145 was part of a legislative package developed from recommendations of a report issued by the House Select Committee on Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Inclusion; pursuant to H.R. 78 of 2009. Moreover, the language of HB2145 was amended into HB2149, an omnibus bill that passed the House on September 27, 2010 by a vote of 189-0.

The primary intent of the mentor protégé program is to develop and foster long-term business relationships between disadvantaged businesses certified by the DGS and that agency's prime contractors in order to facilitate growth and augment business expertise of disadvantaged businesses, thereby, increasing their ability to compete for Commonwealth prime contracting and subcontracting opportunities. Under the proposal, a prime contractor approved as a mentor by the DGS could enter into an agreement with a disadvantaged business to provide developmental assistance to enhance the contracting and subcontracting opportunities of the disadvantaged business. Developmental assistance would include, among other things, management, technical, financial, and employee assistance. The term "disadvantaged business" would be amended to include veteran-owned small businesses, including such businesses owned by service-disabled veterans.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation by contacting Daisy Latham-Williams at 717.787-3480 or by e-mailing dlatham@pahouse.net.