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Senate of Pennsylvania <u>MEMORANDUM</u>

FEB 06 2012

To:

All Senators

From:

Senator Jake Corman

Date:

February 3, 2012

RE:

Co-sponsorship memo # 17 – Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation enacting the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act.

The legislation adds a chapter to Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to provide courts with guidelines to follow during custody disputes and divorce proceedings. The guidelines help courts identify families at risk for abduction, as well as provide a method in which a party to a child custody order may seek, through a petition process, a supplemental order establishing anti-child abduction measures. The petition for additional measures must be based on a credible probability that abduction is possible.

Most importantly, this legislation will allow for interstate cooperation and federal notification in disputes where abductions can occur or have occurred. In cases where child abduction is possible, this step is paramount, providing the tools needed for courts, law enforcement and parents to quickly take control of the abduction situation. For example, courts may provide orders restricting travel across country and state lines and include measures such as placing a child's name in the United States Department of State's Child Passport Issuance Alert Program.

This issue came to my attention last year when a constituent contacted my office detailing her work in the field of child abduction and support for this legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Kristi Kreiser (<u>kkreiser@pasen.gov</u>) or Scott Sikorski (<u>ssikorski@pasen.gov</u>) in my office at 787-1377.