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**TO:** All Senators

**DATE:** February 2, 2012

**FROM:** Senator Vincent Hughes

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship memo – Redaction of information relating to minors in grand jury presentments and reports

In the near future I will be introducing legislation amending the Grand Jury Act (42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 45) to require the supervising judge to redact all identifying information relating to minors that appear as witnesses before a grand jury before making a presentment or grand jury report public.

As we are all aware, the grand jury report in the Jerry Sandusky case contained disturbing allegations regarding repeated acts of child sexual abuse. While in most areas the Sandusky grand jury report concealed the alleged victims' identities, in other areas it provided information that could easily lead to those identities being discovered. This has led to media reports of one child having to leave school due to bullying by other students. This is unfortunate and unacceptable, and warrants a change in grand jury procedure.

The Sandusky grand jury report is just the latest example of how our Grand Jury Act fails to protect the identities of minors. Two grand jury reports released last year in Philadelphia – one in conjunction with the investigation of child sexual abuse allegations concerning the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the other relating to Dr. Kermit Gosnell - either identified minors that appeared before the grand jury or contained information that could easily lead to the identity of minors that appeared.

Publicizing any information that can reasonably be used to identify a minor that appeared before a grand jury is unnecessary. As recent media reports confirm, releasing identifying information only causes more stress and unwanted attention for the minor. If we expect minors, whether as victims or witnesses, to come forward and cooperate in criminal investigations without fear of exposure, retaliation, or intimidation, we need to ensure that their identities will be protected.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jackie Hopp at 7-7112 or [jhopp@pasenate.com](mailto:jhopp@pasenate.com) by February 15, 2012.



## Alleged Jerry Sandusky victim leaves school because of bullying, counselor says

Published: Sunday, November 20, 2011, 7:10 PM Updated: Monday, November 21, 2011, 7:06 AM

**SARA GANIM, The Patriot-News**

By



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The Associated  
Press

Former Penn State football defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, right, leaves the office of Centre County magisterial district judge with his attorney Nov. 5.

Victim One, the first known **alleged victim of abuse by former Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky**, had to leave his school in the middle of his senior year because of bullying, his counselor said Sunday.

Officials at Central Mountain High School in Clinton County weren't providing guidance for fellow students, who were reacting badly about Joe Paterno's firing and blaming the 17-year-old, said Mike Gillum, the psychologist helping his family. Those officials were unavailable for comment this weekend.

The name-calling and verbal threats were just too much, he said.

Other alleged victims are turning to each other for support, since they fear others will out them and cause a media swarm. The only encouragement for Victim One, Gillum said, is watching other alleged victims come forward because they felt empowered by his courage.

"He feels good about that," Gillum said. "That's the one good that's come of all this."

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