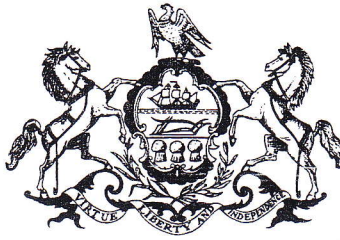


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**MEMORANDUM**

To: All House Members  
From: Representative Mark Longietti  
Date: February 10, 2012  
Subject: Co-sponsorship of Resolution – Healthy Schools Day in Pennsylvania

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In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution that will designate April 24, 2012, as “Healthy Schools Day” in Pennsylvania.

This resolution will recognize the importance of a clean, healthy and safe school environment for our children. School buildings and surrounding property have the potential to expose children and school staff to a broad array of hazards related to the school’s environment, such as air and drinking water contaminants, lead-based paints, pesticides, asthma-causing pollutants, molds, radon and asbestos. These conditions contribute to absenteeism, child medication use, learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover and greater liability for school districts.

Children spend up to half of their day in schools, and there has been a significant rise in the incidence of childhood asthmas, learning difficulties and cancer, some of which could be related to the school environment. Providing parents, teachers, other educators and the public with access to information about known hazards in schools will allow these persons to make informed choices about environmental exposures for children and themselves. Moreover, we should encourage the creation of healthy and high-performance schools, which are designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs while providing cleaner indoor air and environmental quality. Such schools include improved lighting and reduced exposures to toxic substances, materials and supplies, thereby providing a healthier and safer learning environment for children and work environment for personnel, while fostering better attendance, achievement and productivity.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Bob Brownawell in my office at 772-4035, or by e-mail at [rbrownaw@pahouse.net](mailto:rbrownaw@pahouse.net).