



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : All House Members
FROM : Hon. Will Tallman *WJT*
SUBJECT : Advanced Degree Acceptance
DATE : February 14, 2012

In the near future I will be introducing a Resolution calling on our Commonwealth Agencies and Professional licensure Committees to adopt new rules as they go through their regulations every three to five years as required by law. This would require 25 to 30 Bills to be fixed through legislation.

All across the United States an increasing population is selecting home education programs as their legal educational program of choice. These home schooled students go on and earn advanced degrees without ever getting a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, there are other educated individuals with advanced degrees that either cannot find their high school diploma or are from a foreign country. These changes in population characteristics face a challenge in Pennsylvania where there are Commonwealth employers, employers under Commonwealth oversight and training programs that require a high school diploma or its equivalent for acceptance by Commonwealth rules and regulations.

The rules requiring proof of a high school diploma or its equivalent were made years before the advent of these educational options that allow students to acquire advanced degrees without a state-recognized diploma or its equivalent. In light of the changing face of education, it now is necessary to revisit these antiquated laws and regulations so that Pennsylvania keeps pace with societal advances in educational models.

In some of these cases, prospective employees or students have advanced degrees from accredited institutions but no proof of a high school diploma or its equivalent. These individuals are prevented from gaining employment by our own state agencies and denied access to training on specific technology for lack of a high school diploma even though, for example, they may have their doctorate and may have been practicing medicine for years. I can cite specific examples if asked.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Jodi Addington in my Harrisburg office at 783-8875 or via e-mail at jaddingt@pahousegop.com.

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