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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary
Environmental Resources & Energy
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(Subcommittee Chairman on Cities,
Countries - Second Class)
Children & Youth

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NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Memorandum

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Rick Saccone
DATE: February 23, 2012
RE: Co-sponsorship of legislation – Constitutional Carry of a Firearm

During this legislative session, we have seen great victories for Pennsylvanians as we have worked to ensure their rights to bear arms and their right to defend themselves. However, this mission is far from over and there is still work to be done. I am introducing legislation that will eliminate the need for law abiding citizens to acquire a permit to carry a firearm, concealed or open, in Pennsylvania. It will provide the option for a permit if the citizen needs one to carry a weapon in another state that recognizes Pennsylvania License to Carry a Firearm (LTCF) or if there is a reciprocity agreement in effect. Currently, 28 states either recognize Pennsylvania LTCF's or there is a reciprocity agreement in effect.

Pennsylvanians enjoy a fundamental constitutional right to keep and bear arms (Article 1, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution) and no LTCF should be required for law abiding citizens to carry a firearm throughout Pennsylvania. If a citizen passes a criminal background check to purchase a new firearm it is patently unjust and constitutionally questionable to add layers of bureaucratic regulations on to those who are least likely to commit a crime. When one examines the enforcement of the laws, against criminals, for 'carrying firearms without a license' the reasoning behind mandating a license 'only' for law abiding citizens quickly falls apart.

This legislation defends the rights of the citizens in our Commonwealth and I urge you all to co-sponsor this legislation. Those Pennsylvanians that follow the law each day should not be punished or hindered if they choose to carry a firearm. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Susan Peirson at 717-260-6122 or speirson@pahousegop.com.