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**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Donna Oberlander  
**DATE:** February 23, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** *“Esophageal Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month”*

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution designating April 2012 as *“Esophageal Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month”* in Pennsylvania.

Often not detected until the later stages, esophageal cancer, is one of the deadliest cancers with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years after diagnosis. Although these statistics are staggering, there is better news available. Through research, treatment has improved and survival rates are getting better. It is important that individuals be made aware of the symptoms in order to seek treatment as early as possible. Gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) is one of the most common causes of esophageal cancer. However, with monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential for long term damage leading to esophageal cancer can be avoided.

If you wish to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact **Missy Haldeman** at 717-772-9908 or email [mhaldeman@pahousegop.com](mailto:mhaldeman@pahousegop.com).