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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Angel Cruz

Date: March 8, 2012

Subject: **Requiring Law Enforcement Officials to obtain Authorization Orders before using Unmanned Aircraft Surveillance**

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In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by creating a new section that would require law enforcement officials to obtain an authorization order from a superior court judge before legally using unmanned aircraft surveillance in the Commonwealth. My legislation is modeled off of current law that requires law enforcement officials to obtain authorization orders from judges before intercepting wire, electronic, or oral communications.

The purpose of my legislation is to protect Pennsylvanians from invasions of privacy by law enforcement officials. Under authorization given by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), unmanned aircraft, or what are more commonly referred to as "drones," are currently being used by hundreds of police and other government agencies throughout the United States. Furthermore, the FAA is being sued because of its refusal to disclose which agencies have been granted authorization to use these drones and what their purposes are. My legislation ensures that drones cannot be used in Pennsylvania without reasonable cause given for their use and proper approval given from the court system. If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Christina Consylman in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-1407 or at [CConsylm@pahouse.net](mailto:CConsylm@pahouse.net).