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House of Representatives
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Memorandum

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Tony J. Payton, Jr.
DATE: March 12, 2012
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Reintroduction of HB 2124 (2009-2010 Session)

In the near future, I will be reintroducing legislation that amends Title 24 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to establish the Pennsylvania Public School Construction Authority. This legislation is identical to HB 2124 introduced last session.

As many of you are painfully aware, schools throughout Pennsylvania are suffering from deteriorating physical conditions and an overall insufficient capacity to provide a high quality education to students. Moreover, the structural condition of school buildings varies greatly from school district to school district. As an increasing cost burden is placed on local districts, necessary infrastructure projects are being placed on hold. The physical condition and overall structural capacity of our state's school buildings have a direct impact on the academic achievement of our students.

Under this legislation, the Auditor General will prepare a needs assessment report that will identify all deferred maintenance projects in school districts throughout the state, calculate the total cost associated with the completion of all these projects, propose statewide uniform building standards, and present the findings to the Public School Construction Authority. The Public School Construction Authority will review school building and facility adequacy standards and create a central public depository that contains the condition and needs for every school building in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the authority will oversee a state grant program aimed at providing school districts in the most need of infrastructure improvements necessary funds to take on these much delayed projects, and serve as a central source for design and construction advice and expertise for districts contemplating infrastructure improvements.

School districts are in dire need of help in designing, implementing, and maintaining their buildings and facilities. If you would like to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Tajuanna Franklin in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-1354 or tfranklin@pahouse.net.