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Senate of Pennsylvania

**RICHARD ALLOWAY, II
SENATOR**

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MAR 22 2012

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Richard Alloway II *RAI*

SUBJECT: **Co-sponsorship Memo – Deportation of Non Violent Illegal Immigrants**

DATE: March 22, 2012

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which would allow for illegal aliens who are convicted of non-violent offences in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to face deportation hearings immediately.

Current Pennsylvania law provides that illegal aliens convicted of a non-violent offence must serve at least their minimum sentence in state prison before facing deportation. By removing this costly and burdensome requirement, this legislation could save state taxpayers approximately \$1.5 million per year.

Presently, there are 265 non-violent illegal alien offenders being housed in state prisons across the Commonwealth and an average of 65 inmates of this type enter the prison system each year. Their median minimum sentence is approximately 3.7 years, which they serve at a cost to taxpayers of approximately \$34,400 per inmate each year. Upon parole, the illegal aliens are sent to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement Hearing for deportation.

My legislation would allow illegal aliens convicted of non-violent offenses to receive conditional parole and be sent to an Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Hearing for deportation immediately. This approach was recently advocated for by Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel as an important step towards the goal of prison reform and corrections system cost savings in the Commonwealth.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at mknepper@pasen.gov or by phone at 772-2929.