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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Todd Stephens
DATE: March 28, 2012
SUBJECT: Gun Violence – Straw Purchaser

In the near future I will be introducing legislation to combat gun violence and straw-purchasers in our Commonwealth. If we want to get serious about getting illegal guns off our streets we must get serious with the penalties we impose for those violating our laws.

Currently we have no mandatory minimum sentence for felons who illegally possess firearms - my bill would impose a 5 year mandatory minimum sentence. My legislation would also designate the crime of a felon illegally possessing a gun as a "crime of violence" triggering our second strike (10 year mandatory) and third strike (twenty-five year mandatory) provisions.

By enacting these tough penalties for those who illegally possess firearms we will deter violent criminals but will also create incentives for those being prosecuted to cooperate with law enforcement. Through greater cooperation law enforcers will be able to more effectively investigate and prosecute straw-purchasers.

If you'd like to join me by cosponsoring this legislation please contact my secretary, Lindsey Freidly at (717) 260-6163 or LFreidly@pahousegop.com.