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## Memorandum

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative  
**DATE:** March 12, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship Memo for REACH for Education

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In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would establish REACH for Education, a smaller, more targeted version of the Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls (REACH) program to assist students with the cost of attending college in Pennsylvania. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, there will be a need to hire thousands of teachers in the next decade, as we see a deluge of retirements that will leave many of classrooms without an educator. REACH for Education will serve as an important incentive to encourage great students to consider education as a career. This legislation is similar to HB 467 introduced last session by myself and Representative Brendan Boyle, but is limited to those students who choose to study Education in college and prepare to become the educational leaders of tomorrow.

As the costs associated with a college education continue to climb at unprecedented levels, many families and students are finding it more difficult to adequately finance their higher education needs and aspirations. Tuition at Pennsylvania's state-owned universities is among the highest in the nation, with a 4.5% increase being announced in July of this year. In response to this, the REACH for Education program would be a merit-based scholarship awarded to eligible students for the full cost of tuition at any of the 14 state-owned institutions of higher education within the Commonwealth. Additionally, the program would award scholarships to students attending both state-related and private institutions equal to the average tuition at state-owned universities.

Pennsylvania's REACH for Education program would award students scholarships if certain criteria are met. These include, but are not limited to, cumulative high school GPA of 3.0, graduation in the top 10% of high school class, satisfactory school attendance, and completing 100 hours of community service. Furthermore, students would have to maintain a minimum grade point average through the duration of the scholarship, as well as complete a minimum amount of community service hours. The program would be paid through a combination of donations and contributions from various public and private sources, interest earned by the fund, and a 5% assessment on all lottery winnings.

It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this effort to make college more affordable to students across this state. 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](mailto:tfranklin@pahouse.net).