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April 13, 2012

APR 16 2012

TO: All Senators  
FROM: Senator Kim Ward  
SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – Education Mandate Waiver for Transportation - **Memo #40**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would amend the Public School Code to establish a Mandate Waiver in the Department of Education (“PDE”) for transportation. This legislation would allow school districts to apply for a waiver related to the transportation requirements for pupils attending elementary or secondary schools.

A school district in my area has asked for this mandate relief, since their average student ridership is only 35% of bus capacity. The majority of secondary students drive to school and many times only a handful of students are riding a bus that costs approximately \$48,000 per school year. This will provide the district with the ability to have parental sign-off that their child will not be utilizing the bus for the school year and thereby the district can significantly reduce their transportation costs and save taxpayers real dollars.

In order for school entities to be eligible for this waiver, they must apply to PDE with information detailing that the waiver will allow them to operate in a more efficient, effective or economical manner.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Tiffany Price in my office at 717-787-6063 or by email at [tprice@pasen.gov](mailto:tprice@pasen.gov) by APRIL 18, 2012.

KLW/vjw