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MEMO




House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Tom Killion 

DATE: April 23, 2012

RE: Legislation: Formula Change for Approved Private Schools
and Chartered Schools for the Deaf and Blind

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation to address future state funding for Approved Private Schools (APS) and Chartered Schools for the Deaf and Blind. These schools exist to provide highly specialized education programs and services to eligible students between the age of 2 and 21 with severe and complex disabilities who cannot receive appropriate special education programs in the public school sector.

State funding for APSs and Chartered schools are based on prior year increases of state special education appropriation. These schools have now been level funded for two years, while school districts received significant ARRA funding for special education services during those same years. Without an amendment to Act 70, the APSs and Chartered schools may be receiving no increase in state funding for multiple fiscal years with no end in sight. These schools can't levy taxes or charge parents additional tuition as a means of coping with rising costs and flattened funding.

My legislation just provides for a variation from the standard formula during budget years when there is no increase in the state appropriation for special education. In the year following such a flat line in special education funding there would be an increase for the APSs and Chartered schools equal to the increase they received the previous fiscal year. For 2012-2013 that would be a 2.075% increase in funding for APSs and Chartered schools, which equals \$2.853M.

I believe this is a fair solution that provides the necessary funds needed by APSs and Chartered schools that serve our most severely disabled children.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Alison in my Harrisburg office at ahagler@pahousegop.com or 772-0855.

THK: ash