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House of Representatives
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MEMO

May 3, 2012

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Tony DeLuca

SUBJECT: Proposed legislation, Reimbursement to school districts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony", written over the subject line.

Charter schools do meet a need in our school communities, they offer an opportunity for innovation that our public schools may be hard-pressed to meet given the current economy and public schools budget limitations. While I do not oppose charter schools in general, I do think we need to make sure that our school districts receive the necessary funding support from the Commonwealth to meet the needs of all students.

Previously, under Section 2591.1 of the Public School Code, the Commonwealth reimbursed each school district with students enrolled in charter and cyber charter schools, an amount equal to 30% of the total funding required for those students. This funding stream was not funded in this year's budget and our school districts are suffering because of that.

Essentially we have placed an unfunded mandate on our local school boards by not reimbursing our local school districts these funds. In turn, we have placed an inordinate burden directly onto our local homeowners. The money lost must be recouped by either drastic cuts in problems and services, or by increased property taxes. Our school boards have cut to the bone, there is no more room to cut their budgets. It is imperative that we restore the 30% reimbursements to our local school districts, in order to help stave off future property tax increases for our homeowners.

If you would like to add your name as a cosponsor to my legislation amending the Public School Code, Section 2591.1, to require the Commonwealth to pay to school districts a 30% reimbursement of the total funding required for charter and cyber charter schools, please contact my office at chaldi@pahouse.net. Thank you.

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