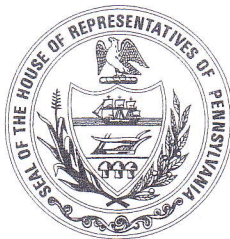


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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**Memorandum**

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative Richard Mirabito   
**DATE:** May 9, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship of Resolution – Healthy Families Month 2012

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In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution designating the month of May 2012, as “Healthy Families Month 2012” in Pennsylvania. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this effort.

The family unit is a crucial pillar of a strong and vibrant society. We know that economic and other pressures often create challenges for families. “Healthy Families Month” is an effort to educate families about tools that are available to strengthen our families, especially during these tough economic times.

One objective is to help families understand that many tools are available at no cost to themselves or to taxpayers. For example, when families spend mealtime together, studies have shown tremendous rewards in keeping children off drugs and improving school performance. Similarly, reading to children is the best investment in early childhood education. The fast pace of industrial society has taken us away from both endeavors.

In addition to helping themselves, sometimes families may need a helping hand in surviving economic and social upheavals, such as the most recent long economic recession. Community and governmental organizations have a long history of helping families to get through difficult times, to find solutions to pressing problems, and to provide education on crucial topics relating to their children. This month is an opportunity to educate parents about programs that will help strengthen their families.

The primary focus during Healthy Families Month 2012 should be fostering and encouraging effective parenting, increasing parent-child communication, understanding and strengthening parent and child bonds, and educating the community about the numerous services and programs available to families through events, workshops, and programs.

It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this important effort. If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Jeannie Kosier in my Harrisburg office at 717-772-1314 or by e-mail at [jkosier@pahouse.net](mailto:jkosier@pahouse.net).