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TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Scott Perry
92nd Legislative District

DATE: May 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation - Higher Education Course Scheduling
Preference for Student Veterans

In the near future, I will introduce legislation to establish a Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Matriculating Student Veterans.

Each year veterans transition from the military and enter into college campuses across Pennsylvania in overwhelming proportions. In 2010, there were approximately 22,000 veterans utilizing benefits and approximately 12,000 veterans using Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits alone. Currently, across the nation 870,000 veterans are attending higher education institutions.

The VA disbursed over \$5.7 billion in benefits to approximately 381,000 student veterans, an increase of almost 20 percent from August 2009 to 2010. The VA expects these numbers to increase dramatically over the next five years due the current drawbacks of Iraq and Afghanistan. That is why I believe higher education institutions must be prepared to handle veteran issues and concerns.

This legislation will provide our veterans a piece of mind because they will be able to maximize their educational benefits. Veterans will not be confronted with time restraints to finish their degree, as oppose, if they did not have priority class scheduling.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lisa Seilhammer at 783-8783 or through e-mail at lseilham@pahousegop.com

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