

VANESSA LOWERY BROWN, MEMBER
190TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

122 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202190
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2190
PHONE: (717) 783-3822
FAX: (717) 772-2384

1435 NORTH 52ND STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131
PHONE: (215) 879-6615
FAX: (215) 879-6616

E-MAIL: VBROWN@PAHOUSE.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/BROWN



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: The Honorable Vanessa Lowery Brown 

DATE: June 4, 2012

RE: Co-Sponsorship – A Resolution recognizing Summer Reading Programs and designating the months of June, July and August 2012 as the “Summer Reading Games 2012” in Pennsylvania

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution that:

- Recognizes Pennsylvania’s libraries for offering summer reading programs.
- Encourages youths to participate in such programs and parents to support and promote reading in homes and elsewhere during the summer months.
- Urges state lawmakers and community leaders to assist with such programs.
- And, most importantly, designate the months of June, July and August 2012 as “Summer Reading Games 2012” in Pennsylvania.

Studies done by Johns Hopkins University researchers show that disadvantaged youth fall significantly behind other students because of a lack of access to reading materials and a loss of encouragement in the home to participate in reading. Such a drop off of reading outside of the school year results in achievement gaps not only in school, but also later in life. Communities that offer summer reading programs encourage youth to develop reading as a lifelong habit. Such programs also draw in reluctant readers through activities and help ensure children, particularly those in disadvantaged homes, read over the summer to maintain an increase reading skills. Further, these programs generate interest in libraries and in the services libraries offer.

Support of summer reading programs give all library users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners, by visiting the library frequently. In fact, the Johns Hopkins and other studies have shown that those who increase their reading have greater success in school and in the job market, while those who have difficulty with reading may have a greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to crime.

With that said, if you like to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact Takesha Latham in my office at (717) 783-3822 or via email at tlatham@pahouse.net.