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House of Representatives
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 8, 2012
SUBJECT: Co-sponsor Request – Family Finding
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Dan Moul

I am preparing to introduce legislation that will amend the Public Welfare Code to require counties to conduct ongoing efforts to find family for children who become involved with a county Children and Youth Agency.

Some children who receive services from a Children and Youth Agency may have to be removed from their homes, and may be able to remain at home while their parents work to address the concerns that led them to become involved with the child welfare system. Either way, having a strong network of family (used broadly to include adult relatives and anyone who has a significant positive relationship with the child) support to help rectify concerns for the safety, permanency, and well-being for a child. Family finding is a vital tool that can identify and build positive connections between a child and his family and create a network of extended family support for the child during what is typically a very difficult time in his life.

Under my legislation, counties would be required to conduct family finding to build these networks of support for children involved with a Children and Youth Agency. Family finding would be conducted when the child is accepted for service by a county Children and Youth Agency, and at least annually until the child's involvement with Children and Youth is terminated. Counties would be required to notify a child's adult relatives to inform them that the child has been removed from his parents and explain the options that the individual has for participating in the care and placement of the child.

I hope that you will join me by cosponsoring this legislation. If you would like to do so, please contact Suzette Beemer at sbeemer@pahousegop.com.