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## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

## COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES CONSUMER AFFAIRS GAMING OVERSIGHT JUDICIARY

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## **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Todd Stephens

DATE:

June 19, 2012

SUBJECT:

Cosponsor Memo - Animal Fighting Paraphernalia

In the near future I will be introducing legislation to help our law enforcement community combat animal fighting in the Commonwealth. Currently, while we prohibit animal fighting we do not have any prohibitions on possessing the equipment used for animal fighting. My legislation will prohibit anyone from possessing equipment or implements if they are used for animal fighting. There are major distributors of the knives that make cockfights bloodier and of the stimulants that make animals more aggressive. These operations serve one purpose, to support and sustain illegal animal fights.

As one can imagine, our law enforcers can't always catch those operating animal fighting operations in the act but during the course of an investigation may find an offender to be in possession of equipment or implements used for animal fighting. My bill would allow the authorities to hold these individuals accountable.

If you'd like to join me by cosponsoring this legislation please contact my secretary, Lindsey Freidly at (717) 260-6163 or <u>LFreidly@pahousegop.com</u>.