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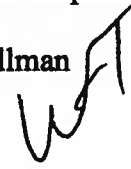
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Will Tallman 

DATE: April 8, 2012

RE: Proposed Legislation to make changes to the State Board of Education

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that amends the makeup of the State Board of Education within the Department of Education. The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the membership of the Board from 21 to 15, and ensure that when the Board is establishing policies and standards they must consider the economic impacts that accompany the implementation of those policies and standards.

The State Board of Education is the agency that enacts the unfunded mandates on our local school districts. We have the Keystone Exams and the Common Core Standards recently mandated by the State Board without legislative input or intent. Both of these have a direct cost impact on our schools. It also removes local control which is a concept established in the Commonwealth.

This legislation will further prohibit Board members from being employed by the Department of Education; with the exception of the Secretary of Education. Finally, the bill will provide for the selection of certain Board members, both by service as a school director, and by geographic location; one from the eastern region of the state and one from the western region.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact my staff Teresa Leitner via e-mail at tleitner@pahousegop.com or (717) 783-8875