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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg


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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ryan P. Aument 

DATE: August 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation - Amending the Child Protective Services Law

I am preparing to introduce the attached legislation that would amend the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to require that all mandated reporters of child abuse make reports of abuse directly to Childline rather than reporting up their organizational chain of command in certain situations.

Under current law, any person who, in the course of employment, occupation, or practice of a profession, comes into contact with children is required to report, if they have cause to suspect that a child under the care, supervision, guidance, or training of that person or of an agency, institution, organization, or other entity with which that person is affiliated is a victim of child abuse. A mandated reporter, who is part of a medical or other public or private institution, school facility, or agency is required to notify the person in charge of their organization. Upon notification, the person in charge is required to report and assumes responsibility for the failure to do so.

My legislation would require the mandated reporter to report the suspected abuse directly *and* notify the person in charge of their organization, who would then assume the responsibility for facilitating the organization's cooperation with the investigation. This bill is intended to reduce the level of confusion associated with reporting up the chain of command in an organization that works with children and help ensure that reports of suspected abuse are promptly made to Childline.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Lori Clark at lclark@pahousegop.com or 705-7161.

RPA:lac
Attachment