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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE JERRY STERN *JAS*

DATE: August 15, 2012

SUBJECT: COSPONSORSHIP OF LEGISLATION
Historical Documents

I am sure most of you have just watched the 2012 Summer Olympics in London and enjoyed watching our athletes compete for the gold medal and winning the most medals out of all countries competing. Unfortunately, our strengths as Americans do not hold true when quizzed about American History. A recent poll provided the following information:

- Twenty-six percent of those surveyed did not know that the United States achieved its independence from Great Britain, according to a poll conducted by the nonprofit Marist Institute for Public Opinion. Six percent named a different country, including France, China, Japan, Mexico and Spain. Twenty percent said they weren't sure.
- Seven percent of those surveyed could name the first four presidents in order: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

I plan on introducing a bill that was introduced in previous sessions that would encourage schools and teachers to get back to the basis and have students actually read and study original documents such as: excerpts or portions of: the preamble to the State Constitution; the Declaration of Independence; the United States Constitution; the Mayflower Compact; the national motto; the national anthem; the pledge of allegiance; the writings, speeches, documents and proclamations of the Founding Fathers and Presidents of the United States; organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Revolutionary,

Federalist, and post-Federalist Eras; U.S. Supreme Court decisions; and acts of the U.S. Congress including the published text of the Congressional Record. *There shall be no content based censorship of American history or heritage in this State based on religious or other references in these writings, documents or records.*

I am hopeful in the future that our students will be able to win the gold in understanding American History.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Laura Wagner-Miller via email at Lwagner@pahousegop.com or Nancy Cole at Ncole@pahousegop.com.

JAS/llwm