

**RON MILLER, MEMBER
93rd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
115 RYAN OFFICE BUILDING
PO BOX 202093
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2093
PHONE: (717) 783-8389
FAX: (717) 705-1850

DISTRICT OFFICE:
6872 SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL SOUTH
PO BOX 277
JACOBUS, PENNSYLVANIA 17407-0277
PHONE: (717) 428-9889
FAX: (717) 771-1035

E-MAIL: rmiller@pahousegop.com
Web: RepMiller.com



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEES

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APPOINTMENTS

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ron Miller *RM*

DATE: August 20, 2012

RE: **Proposed Legislation** - Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to repeal legal favoritism geared towards organized labor

Every state in America has declared stalking to be a crime - and for good reason. Few things are more unsettling than being followed or maliciously harassed, threatened, or intimidated. Many states have classified the crime as a felony and impose significant penalties, with even more severe penalties for repeat offenses. In some states, those convicted of stalking can be ordered to undergo mental health evaluations. Yet, despite the frightening effect that stalking can have on its victims - and indeed that frightening effect is often the very purpose for the perpetrator's actions - Pennsylvania has carved out an exemption from the crime when it is committed by someone engaged in labor organizing activities.

A report issued earlier this month by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce highlighted several glaring examples of union favoritism contained in Pennsylvania law. In addition to the aforementioned exemption from our statutory restrictions against stalking, parties engaged in a labor dispute are also exempted from Commonwealth laws which prohibit harassment and, shockingly, threatening to use weapons of mass destruction.

In the near future I will be introducing legislation amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to repeal these alarming instances of legal favoritism geared towards organized labor. The very existence of these exemptions calls attention to the fact that the tactics employed by unions in their organizing activities can inflict the same level of emotional distress and intimidation caused by a stalker, harasser, or terrorist.

The time has come for Pennsylvania to stop condoning actions that would be illegal under any other circumstances simply because they are being performed by organized labor. Please contact Dawn Wolfe-Gingrich by phone at 717-783-8389 or by e-mail to dwolfe@pahousegop.com if you wish to cosponsor this legislation.