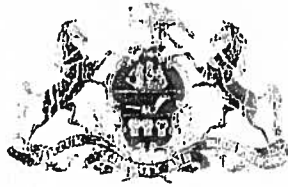


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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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September 4, 2012

TO: All House Members

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania State University Endowment

FROM: Representative Julie Harhart
183rd Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a flourish.

As we all have read in press reports, the Pennsylvania State University will set up an endowment fund to provide money to help prevent child abuse. The endowment is part of a consent agreement reached with the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

I am introducing a resolution urging the Pennsylvania State University to use the endowment to fund children's advocacy centers in Pennsylvania. Children's advocacy centers represent state-of-the-art treatment for child victims of sexual abuse and their families. They are the focal point for the delivery of medical care and mental health treatment to child victims of sexual abuse. These centers bring together doctors, nurses, prosecutors, social workers, and police in order to provide a unique and essential program of treating and healing for child victims of sexual abuse. However, children's advocacy centers not only treat child victims, but also assist in preventing and detecting child abuse. The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association has stated publically its belief that "if Centre County had had a children's advocacy center there may have been means to stop Jerry Sandusky sooner".

Even though Pennsylvania has 67 counties, there are only 21 children's advocacy centers located within the Commonwealth. Funding is the greatest barrier to establishing children's advocacy centers. The resolution I will introduce urges the Pennsylvania State University to use the \$60 million endowment to assist in the creation and maintenance of children's advocacy centers.

If you would like to join me in sponsorship, please contact Michele Warren at 772-5398 or mwarren@pahousegop.com.

JH/mmgw