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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

HUMAN SERVICES
POLICY
STATE GOVERNMENT

PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS,
TREASURER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Harold James

DATE: September 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Request – Personalized Gun Legislation

In the near future, I plan to introduce a companion bill to Senate Bill 931, which amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to limit the sale of firearms to include only personalized firearms.

Regrettably, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that 56 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2010, seven were killed with their own weapon. As elected officials, it is our duty to ensure that the residents of this Commonwealth, in addition to the law enforcement officers that defend the public's safety and well-being, are safeguarded from accidental and felonious shootings. The use of personalized firearms will assist in curbing such shootings by using biometric technology to restrict unregistered individuals from firing a gun through pressure sensors, fingerprints, or transmitters

My legislation, like Senate Bill 931, amends Title 18 by requiring that all firearms sold in Pennsylvania must be classified as personalized firearms, once the technology is fully developed, and the guns are available for retail sale. The passage of this bill will follow the lead taken by former New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, in 2002, when legislation was enacted requiring handgun manufacturers to sell only "smart guns" within three years of their availability.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Debbie Wegert at 717-783-1792 or DWegert@pahouse.net Please respond by September 17th, 2012, Thank you.