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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:
GAME AND FISHERIES
HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION
TOURISM

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Doyle Heffley
DATE: September 11, 2012
SUBJECT: Resolution – Lights on Afterschool! Day

In the next few weeks, I plan to introduce a non-controversial resolution designating October 18, 2012, as Lights on Afterschool! Day in Pennsylvania. This will mark the eighth annual national commemoration of the Lights on Afterschool! Day, a national event recognizing the importance of afterschool programs in the lives of children.

Pennsylvania has over 2.1 million school-age children and youth and over 1.3 million of them (6 to 17 years of age) have both parents in the workforce, or in the case of single parent families, the sole parent in the workforce. Children's out-of-school hours represent the 'single biggest block of time' for youth and a key time during the development of children into adolescents and adolescents into adults.

Research on the benefits of afterschool programs is clear – it demonstrates that out-of-school hours have a significant influence on the development of children and teenagers' habits, attitudes and skills that will ultimately help determine their academic and lifetime successes. High-quality afterschool programming improves student achievement, reduces crime by and against youth, and promotes positive social development.

Across Pennsylvania communities are already working together to develop safe, affordable and enriching afterschool experiences for school-age children and teens. It is vitally important that the House recognize the importance of these programs and support the contributions that providers and volunteers make to improve the lives of our young people.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Linda Schylaske at lschylas@pahousegop.com or call 717-260-6139.