

**KEITH GILLESPIE, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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September 14, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Keith J. Gillespie
45 East Wing 

Subject: Human Branding

I will introduce legislation to address the practice of human branding. The legislation amends the statute in the Crimes Code dealing with tattooing and body piercing. Specifically, the bill will make it a crime to engage in human branding of a person under 18 years of age.

The practice of human branding entails placing a hot iron or other instrument on the skin. News reports indicate that the process leaves the person with a third degree burn. Hence, it is inherently dangerous.

Just as with body piercing and tattooing of a minor without consent of the parent, the offense is graded as a misdemeanor of the third degree for the first offense. Further, just as with body piercing and tattooing, a second or subsequent offense, when committed within one year of a prior offense, is graded as a misdemeanor of the second degree.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Cheryl Gruber at 705-7167 or by email cgruber@pahousegop.com. Thank you.