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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Ed Neilson *Ed Neilson*

Date: September 7, 2012

Subject: **Pennsylvania House Arrest Program: Electronic Monitoring**

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In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that will amend Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by requiring a state parole officer to escort a parolee, upon his release from a correctional institution, directly to a parole office if he has been ordered to undergo electronic monitoring. At the parole office, an electronic monitoring device will be placed on the individual. In addition, a parolee ordered to undergo electronic monitoring will not be released from a correctional institution unless a telephone landline exists and is in working condition at the person's residence in order for the electronic monitoring device to function properly.

Tragically, Philadelphia Police Officer Moses Walker Jr., a nineteen-year veteran of the force, was killed last month by Rafael Jones, a parolee, who had been ordered to undergo house arrest with electronic monitoring. However, Michael Potteiger, chairman of the Board of Probation and Parole, stated that a device was not placed on Jones because his residence did not have a telephone landline to support the device.

Currently, parolees who are ordered to undergo electronic monitoring are allowed to go unmonitored for a brief period of time between being released from prison and their first required meeting at a parole office. In addition, in some cases the parolees do not have telephone landlines in their residences and they are not given electronic monitoring devices because the devices will not work. Allowing parolees who have been ordered to undergo electronic monitoring to go unmonitored indefinitely or for just a brief period of time is unacceptable, and my legislation seeks to remedy the problem. If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Carla Walker in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-4331 or at [CWalker@pahouse.net](mailto:CWalker@pahouse.net).