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REPLY TO:

TO: All Senators & Staff

DATE: October 12, 2012

Christine M. Tartaglione

FROM: Senator Christine M. Tartaglione

SUBJECT: Participation in Senate Disabilities Day 2012

On Tuesday, October 16, 2012, I will host Senate Disabilities Day 2012 in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This event will offer Senators an opportunity to experience a day-in-the-life of a disabled person by allowing them to don devices which will simulate a disability. These devices will include wheelchairs, noise-canceling headphones, vision-distorting goggles, magnifiers, augmentative communication devices and arm restraints. On the above date, in partnership with Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia, Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, The Arc of Philadelphia and United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA, I will have devices available for Senators, as well as staff, in the East Wing Rotunda. Not only will individuals learn how to use the various types of equipment provided for the simulation that day, but also, they will gain a better understanding of the assistive technology devices available to individuals currently living with disabilities.

Representatives from the above-mentioned organizations will be present from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the East Wing Rotunda to demonstrate how to use these devices and to sign them out to individuals for half hour to hour-long trial sessions. It is my hope this will help each one of us better understand the challenges encountered by disabled persons as we develop legislation vital to the citizens of this Commonwealth. To ensure sufficient devices are available, I am asking Senators to sign-up for a device and time slot in advance by contacting Amanda Wolfe at (717)787-1141 or awolfe@pasenate.com. Upon contacting my office, please indicate the device requested by the Member, the length of the trial session (one half hour or one hour) and the time at which the Member would like the device. To accommodate Members' schedules, devices may be picked up in the East Wing Rotunda or delivered to Members' offices, if preferred. Should you require delivery and pick-up of a device, please indicate this to Amanda. Staff is welcome to stop by the Rotunda on October 16 if they wish to sign-out a device.