

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Jaret Gibbons
Representative Chris Sainato

Date: September 19, 2012

Subject: Co-Sponsor of Legislation – Providing for hiring preferences for displaced workers of closing Youth Development Centers under the Department of Public Welfare

The New Castle Youth Development Center (NCYDC) is part of a network of juvenile justice facilities operated by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) that provide adjudicated delinquent youth structured programs and attempts to provide the support so they can become productive adults. The NCYDC currently provides a Secure Treatment Program (specializing in mental health and violence prevention), an Adolescent Sexual Offenders Program (focusing on relapse prevention), and a Specialized Residential Program (concentrating on chemical abuse). These programs provide these youths with an important service.

Unfortunately, due to policies under the former and current administrations regarding employee protection and placement of youth in these facilities, the NCYDC and possibly other centers like it may be at risk of being closed or merged in the future. These closings could result in the loss of hundreds of jobs around the state. In our area alone, the closing of the NCYDC would result in roughly 100 jobs lost. We are proposing legislation that would provide hiring preferences to any employee who is laid off by these DPW closures.

If this center or centers like it are to be closed or merged with other centers, then we feel we need to provide assistance to those displaced employees. We have a precedent in providing hiring preferences to displaced workers after a closing. For instance, we provided hiring preferences to displaced employees of the Scotland School for the Children of Veterans and the Scranton School for the Deaf.

While it is unfortunate that these closings could occur, and we look forward to working with the administration to revamp the program and save these facilities, we feel we owe some form of assistance to those faithful and loyal employees, who through no fault of their own, may lose their jobs because of these closures.

It is our sincere hope that you will join us in this effort. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Susan Finger at Harrisburg office at (717) 705-2060, or via email at sfinger@pahouse.net. This legislation will be introduced on Wednesday, October 17, 2012.