

## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Mary Isaacson

Date: December 2, 2020

Subject: Quarantine Leave for College Faculty During COVID-19

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At the height of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, colleges and universities were struggling with the decision to remain open or provide online classes. Whichever way a school decided to conduct their classes, it is still important that they continue to prepare for the eventuality that an employee or staff member may be exposed to or infected with COVID-19 at some point during the school year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared that any individual exposed to or infected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) must immediately quarantine for 14 days. In response to this, the federal government enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which provides up to 80 hours of emergency paid leave for workers who are sick or quarantined, or who are caring for a loved one who is sick or quarantined due to the virus. This includes teachers and other school employees.

The FFCRA only covers one occurrence of quarantining, however. As more research has been conducted on COVID-19, scientists have found that an individual may be infected by COVID-19 more than once. To provide for the possibility that an employee may be infected or exposed to COVID-19 on more than one occasion, I am introducing legislation that would provide an additional 30 days of paid leave for any employee, faculty member, or staff member of a Pennsylvania college or university who is required to quarantine due to COVID-19. It is my hope that this will help reduce the spread of this disease on our college campuses.

Please join me in co-sponsoring legislation that would protect our hardworking educators, collegiate staff, and students.