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Senate of Pennsylvania

March 12, 2007

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To: All Senators

From: Senator Patricia H. Vance
Senator Jay Costa, Jr.

Re: Dedicated Funding for Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Prevention (#11)

In the near future, we intend to reintroduce Senate Bill 727 from last session to establish a Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Prevention Fund.

This legislation dedicates a portion of the revenue from the existing liquor tax to five separate line items for drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs currently funded through annual appropriations to the Departments of Health, Public Welfare, Corrections and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. While these line items do not cover all drug and alcohol related expenditures in the Commonwealth, they do represent a core nucleus of programs which those who provide these services, and those they serve, depend on.

Based on the estimated revenues and proposed expenditures outlined in the Governor's Executive Budget, this proposal will not have a fiscal impact in FY 2007-08. In future years, a portion of the growth in the revenue generated by the liquor tax would be distributed proportionately among the five line items. As the Commonwealth considers ways to increase revenues from the sale of liquor, it seems fitting that a portion of these revenues is dedicated to drug and alcohol treatment and prevention efforts.

Please contact Senator Vance's office at 787-8524 if you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation.