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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Matt Smith

DATE: December 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: Re-introduction of HB 442 of 2009 - Requiring Background Checks for Lodging Employee Applicants

In the near future, I intend to re-introduce legislation, known as Nan's Law, which will amend the Pennsylvania Innkeepers' Rights Act that currently protects lodging operators against non-paying customers, illegal guest activities and damages caused by unsupervised children.

This legislation, previously HB 442 of 2009, would amend the Pennsylvania Innkeepers' Rights Act to require applicants seeking employment at a lodging establishment to submit a background check, if the position would give the employee access to guest room keys. The innkeeper may then use any information that is part of applicant's criminal history in deciding whether to hire the applicant. Also, this legislation would require dead bolt locks to be installed on doors connecting guestrooms, in addition to the main bedroom door.

In 1996, Nan Toder, a Mt. Lebanon native, was staying in a hotel while training for a new job and was murdered by a Hotel Maintenance Manager who held access to a master key to all of the hotel's guestrooms. The murderer had a criminal history, which was unknown to the hotel because a background check was never performed. This vital legislation will help increase safety at hotels within this Commonwealth and provide Pennsylvania's guests with some piece of mind.

Previous co-sponsors for former HB 442 included: BARRAR, BOYD, CASORIO, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HALUSKA, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, VULAKOVICH, AND MATZIE

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jamie Fetter at 717-783-1850 or jfetter@pahouse.net.