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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEE
GAMING OVERSIGHT, CHAIRWOMAN

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2010
SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES
TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD

RCY

I plan to re-introduce legislation that will address a glaring deficiency in the inspection of family child day care homes. The bill is similar to HB 406 of last session and is intended to reduce unnecessary injuries and tragic fatalities involving young children.

Currently, state law requires the Department of Public Welfare to inspect family day care homes on random sample basis, which usually means that only about 15% of over 3,000 family day care homes are inspected each year. Many family day care homes have never been inspected in 20 years. A family day care home provides child day care for 4 to 6 children who are unrelated to the provider, and the provider must register with the department every 2 years.

The bill that I am proposing, the Family Day Care Home Inspection Act, is a freestanding bill that will phase in the inspection of family day care homes over a 4-year period so that eventually each registered family day care home will be inspected at least once during the 2-year registration certificate. The law will take effect one year after being signed into law. The phase-in period is designed to make is feasible for both the department and providers to make this change.

This legislation has been supported by the Pennsylvania Home-based Child Care Providers Association, Child Care Providers United, and Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.

If you would like to co-sponsor this bill, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Kendalle Wilt in my office at 787-7727 or e-mail her at kwilt@pahouse.net, or on her internal Democratic Caucus extension, 6402 soon as possible. Thank you.