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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Jim Cox  
**DATE:** February 9, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** State Compact - Citizenship

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The problems associated with unchecked illegal immigration are in the news on a routine basis. More often than not, the federal government has failed to address these problems. I believe it is imperative that, in the absence of a concerted federal effort, the states seek appropriate means to protect their citizens.

The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution provides as follows:

**“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”** (*emphasis added*).

I intend to introduce legislation to authorize Pennsylvania to enter into a compact with other states to provide distinctions on state birth records between persons who are, and who are not, “subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.” In the case of a child born in the United States, that would include children with at least one parent who owes no allegiance to any foreign country or a child without citizenship or nationality in any foreign country. I believe this is a fair approach, in that it does not leave a child without a country but, at the same time, recognizes the limitations on birthright citizenship as provided by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment.

The purpose of this compact is to provide a tool to allow both states and the federal government to distinguish between citizens and non-citizens. Without this informational tool, government entities operate at a disadvantage with respect to interaction with persons within their borders. The compact would not take effect until Congressional approval has been obtained.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislative proposal, please contact Jen Sellers at 772-2435 or via email at [jeseller@pahousegop.com](mailto:jeseller@pahousegop.com).