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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

MARK K. KELLER

86th Legislative District


REPUBLICAN DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES

Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Game & Fisheries
Judiciary
Policy
Transportation
*Chairman of the Subcommittee
on Highways*

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Mark K. Keller 

DATE: September 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed School Bus Legislation

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would make it lawful for a parent or guardian to board a school bus if they believe their child is having a medical emergency.

Last year, a registered nurse and mother from Perry County was charged with unlawfully entering a school bus when she went to check on her child, who she believed was injured. Currently, it is illegal in Pennsylvania for anyone to get onto a school bus unless the bus driver gives specific permission to do so.

My legislation amends the statute to create an exception in the law that would allow a parent or guardian of a child on a school bus if they believe that there is an imminent emergency involving the health of their child. The parent or guardian must enter the school bus with the intent only to render emergency medical care or first-aid to the child, or in a case where the driver has not provided authorization because the driver is incapacitated, to rescue the child from the emergency.

I believe this is common-sense measure that allows parents to protect their children without the fear of facing criminal penalties and that will ultimately ensure the safety of children traveling to and from school.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Kori Weikle in my Harrisburg office at (717) 783-1593.