

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Lawrence Curry

**DATE:** September 29, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Co-Sponsorship Request – **Resolution Recognizing the Safe Return of American Hikers**

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution recognizing the safe return of American hikers, Shane M. Bauer and Josh F. Fattal, back to their families in the United States, praising the hikers for their inspiring behavior, and displaying gratitude to all who petitioned for their release.

Shane Bauer, Josh Fattal, and Sarah Shourd set out for a five-day voyage of Northern Iraq on July 28, 2009, but were detained in Iran on July 31, 2009, after mistakenly venturing across the Iran border during a backpacking adventure of Kurdistan. Due to medical reasons Sarah was released 410 days after her imprisonment. However, Shane and Josh, a native of Elkins Park of the Philadelphia area, spent 781 days at Tehran's Evin Prison, after being convicted of espionage and sentenced to eight years in prison.

During their time of imprisonment, supporters continued to protest their unjust treatment and lobbied for their return to the United States. The persistence of all involved resulted in the discharge of Shane and Josh to an official of the Persian Gulf State of Oman. Their courageous behaviors during their imprisonment is commendable and inspiring. I strongly believe that, as members of the General Assembly, it is essential that we continue to display our support and celebrate their homecoming.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this resolution to recognize the courageous actions of both Shane and Josh during this challenging time, in addition to the continued effort of all individuals that supported their release, please contact Nancy Porvaznik in my office at 717-783-1079 or [nporvazn@pahouse.net](mailto:nporvazn@pahouse.net).