

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ken Smith

DATE: March 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Resolution – **Workers' Memorial Day 2012**

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing a resolution designating April 28, 2012, as "Workers' Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania. Each year, this day is observed by workers throughout the world in honor of colleagues, friends and family members who have lost their lives or suffered injuries or illnesses as a result of workplace accidents.

This resolution will provide the House of Representatives an opportunity to honor the thousands of individuals within the United States who have succumbed to workplace fatalities and millions who suffer workplace injuries. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2010 alone, over 4,500 workers nationwide were killed due to an accident at work. Experts further estimate that at least 50,000 more fatalities resulted from illnesses or diseases contracted as a result of workplace exposures. Many more workers – well over three million – are annually reported to have survived injuries or illnesses that were sustained or developed in the workplace.

While statistics of deaths and injuries vary from year to year, the data continues to demonstrate that we must continue to remain attentive to the need to ensure safety for our workers. Pennsylvania's recognition of Workers' Memorial Day on April 28 underscores the importance of remembering our lost and injured workers and asserts the value of each and every member of our workforce. Our resolution commemorating this event will extend our sympathies to families and friends of workers who have been lost, and offer hope and encouragement by reaffirming our commitment to safe working environments.

I hope that you will join me in honoring these men and women. If you would like to co-sponsor this important resolution, please contact Jenifer Rosenberger, in my office at (717) 783-1359 x 6524 or JRosenbe@pahouse.net.