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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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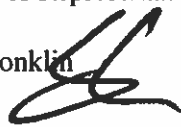
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TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Scott Conklin 
DATE: July 26, 2012
SUBJECT: Reforming the Protocols and Procedures of Pennsylvania State University's Board of Trustees

In the near future, I will be introducing a package of legislation that will implement significant reforms regarding the protocols and governance of Penn State University's Board of Trustees.

As I am sure you are aware, former FBI Director Louis Freeh conducted an in-depth investigation into Penn State's management of allegations against former football coach Jerry Sandusky. In light of that report, Auditor General Jack Wagner recommended a number of changes that are necessary to improve transparency and accountability at Pennsylvania State University. Specifically, AG Wagner noted a need to directly address the manner in which the university's Board of Trustees operates and to create greater transparency. Therefore, I am proposing to overhaul the manner in which the university's Board of Trustees operates. Some of these reforms include, but are not limited to the following:

- Amending Penn State's enabling statute to remove the President of the university as an ex-officio voting member of the Board;
- Prohibiting the President from serving on any standing committee, special committees and subcommittees of the Board;
- Amending Penn State's enabling statute to make the Governor an ex-officio "non-voting" member of the Board; and
- Making the Right-to-Know Law applicable to all four state-related universities.

It is my belief that the reforms proposed by Auditor General Wagner will be instrumental and effective in eliminating the concentration of power among administrative officials, ensuring that the university's Board of Trustees operates in a more cohesive and transparent manner, and providing for adequate and much needed oversight.

Please join me in sponsoring this important legislation. If you would wish to join me as a co-sponsor of any of these measures, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Jim Moser at (717) 787-9473 x 6580 or jmoser@pahouse.net