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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative W. Curtis Thomas

DATE: September 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: General Assistance Cash Grants

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would refund \$12.4 million to the General Assistance Cash Grant program for a three month period (90 days). The funds would be used for individuals with a disability and children under age 13 living with an unrelated adult.

The General Assistance program supports the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians who have no other income. The program provides temporary help for people with transition to a more stable situation. General Assistance redirects individuals from more costly public programs. Recipients have already been medically verified as unable to work, and therefore would be more likely to turn to more costly social services such as homeless shelters (\$1,050 a month), foster care (\$600-\$1,800 a month), incarceration (\$2,750 a month, and state psychiatric hospitals (\$20,584 a month).

The Budget Office is projecting a \$219.5 million surplus at the close of the current Fiscal Year 2012/13. Furthermore, the revenues from June, July, and August have been more than anticipated; therefore, there are funds available to support individuals under the General Assistance Cash Grant program.

My legislation will give temporary relief to those who need it the most. If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Mary Gingrich in my office at (717) 783-0250 or MGingric@pahouse.net.