

RONALD G. WATERS, MEMBER  
191ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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# House of Representatives

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

### HARRISBURG

## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Representative Ronald Waters

**DATE:** October 2, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Co-Sponsorship Request – Castle Doctrine

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further limit the circumstances in which the use of force is permissible.

I believe that the value of a human life is greater than any possession and force should only be used in extreme circumstances. As state representatives, it is our duty to provide the residents of this Commonwealth with the security and protection they desire. However, such safety should not be provided at the expense of another individual's life, as it currently is under the Castle Doctrine.

My legislation addresses this issue by prohibiting individuals from using force for the protection of property, another individual, or one's own well-being if the person is either able to retreat or instructed by peace officers or public safety dispatchers not to pursue another individual. If enacted, this legislation could result in a decreased number of unnecessary deaths and injuries, including injuries inflicted on crime victims that attempt to engage in a confrontation with an offender.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important legislation to assist in curbing the number of unnecessary deaths and injuries of residents of this Commonwealth, please contact Juliann Wesloskie at 717-772-9850 or e-mail [jweslosk@pahouse.net](mailto:jweslosk@pahouse.net).