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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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February 7, 1997

**TO:** All House Members

**SUBJECT:** Denying Cash Assistance to Illegal Drug Users

**FROM:** Robert J. Flick   
Thomas W. Druce  
Peter J. Zug

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FEB 10 1997

In keeping with our commitment to welfare reform, I, along with Representatives Druce and Zug will introduce legislation that denies cash assistance to illegal drug users. This legislation, which is a redraft of House Bill 2092 of last session, is a continuation of the welfare reform movement.

As we are all aware, drug abuse is one of the single most important problems afflicting our society, and it has a profoundly negative impact on lower income individuals and families. When our current welfare system does nothing to address this problem, and in many cases overlooks obvious drug abuse, how can we expect to solve this pernicious problem. By stating in statute that illegal drug use will make an individual ineligible for public assistance, we are making a statement that illegal drug use by those receiving a helping hand from society will not be tolerated. However, we do not presume that this provision alone will correct the problem. That is why the bill also provides the Department of Public Welfare with the opportunity to set up a drug testing program for recipients, and in cases where the recipient tests positive, a treatment option will be made available to the recipient. If the recipient refuses the treatment option, then the recipient will be removed from the welfare rolls.

Please join us in sending a message to all of Pennsylvania that the welfare system status quo is not working and that it is time for serious and significant change. You may call my office at 787-8579 to add your name as a sponsor.

**The following individuals were sponsors previously: True, Semmel, Dempsey, Feese, Fargo, Geist, Phillips, Herman, Leh, Fichter, Cornell, Egolf, Pettit, Brown, Mayernik, Wogan, Rubley, Trich, Harhart, Raymond, Boscola, DiGirolamo, Fairchild, Adolph, Stairs, Maitland, Melio, Stern, Armstrong, Allen, E. Z. Taylor, Tangretti, Hershey, Gannon, Sather, Waugh, DeLuca, Coy, Micozzie, Saylor, Lederer, Platts, Clark, Trello, Colafella, Hutchinson, Serafini, Marsico, Lynch, Bunt, Browne, Haluska, and Hess.**