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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 Thomas Tangretti

DATE: October 6, 2005

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of legislation: Methamphetamine Labs

I will be introducing legislation in the near future to address concerns relating to methamphetamine laboratories, commonly referred to as “meth labs.”

As you may know, methamphetamine is shockingly easy to manufacture, and many makeshift “meth labs” are found in apartments and homes. In addition, the production of methamphetamine requires the use of highly toxic chemicals such as methanol, ether, and anhydrous ammonia; the “cooking” process itself can also give off harmful fumes. Unfortunately, this can result in site contamination – carpets, countertops, wallboard, and even nearby drinking water wells – that affects not only the meth producer but also future residents of the property. However, Pennsylvania law does not currently require property owners to inform prospective buyers or renters when a property was previously used for drug production.

- My first measure would amend Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) to require that a seller disclose to a potential buyer when it is known that a property has been used as a meth lab. Disclosure requirements are already in place for other important health and safety issues including structural defects or insect infestation.
- My second measure would amend The Landlord and Tenant Act to add a similar provision for rental properties; landlords would be required to inform prospective renters prior to lease signing when the apartment has previously been used as a meth lab. At this time, The Landlord and Tenant Act does not require disclosure of potential health or safety concerns.

Methamphetamine production is an emerging danger to our communities, and it is important that we take proactive steps to ensure the safety of our constituents and neighborhoods. If you would like to join me in supporting these measures, please contact Cynthia at 783-5963 or by email at CCLory@pahouse.net.