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MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Representative Thomas A Tangretti

**DATE:** April 13, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Legislation – Amend Pennsylvania’s Constitution to Establish a New System for Reapportionment

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to create a non-partisan state agency and establish a new system by which this agency will redraw the maps during the legislative and congressional reapportionment process.

In creating the district maps, the bureau would be required to create equality of population across the districts while respecting the boundaries of municipalities to the greatest extent possible. Unfortunately, this principle is sometimes overlooked in current plans. The districts would also be required to be as compact as possible, avoid peculiar and disfigured shapes that challenge the meaning of contiguous, and, most importantly, recognize communities of interest. In addition, the bureau would be specifically enjoined from taking voter registration, voter performance, and home addresses of incumbent legislators into account when preparing the maps.

Following the 1990 census, Iowa adopted this plan and it has worked well there. Arizona and Alaska adopted the model for the reapportionment following the 2000 census. To best serve our constituents, we should adopt it in Pennsylvania.

If you would like to join me by co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Cynthia Clory at 3-5963 or via email at [cclory@pahouse.net](mailto:cclory@pahouse.net).