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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 6, 2001

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to reduce the stigma and prejudice-affecting people stricken with a mental illness. Medical science demonstrates prompt appropriate treatment saves lives and needless suffering. The United States Surgeon General, David Satcher, M.D., PH. D, has issued several reports encouraging people to get this message out to the citizens of our great nation. Pennsylvanians are encouraged to heed this call to action.

The legislation, "People Improving Lots of Lives (PILL)" for Pennsylvania's Health, provides up to ten million dollars to the Department of Public Welfare for grants to qualified foundations, libraries, nonprofit businesses and community-based organizations who implement programs that decrease stigma and prejudice toward people with mental illness. These programs must meet the needs of race, culture, and gender with an increased focus on minorities and various age groups.

Mental illness can strike anyone. It knows no age limits, economic status, race, creed, or color. Just like many other diseases, recovery is possible with proper diagnosis and early treatment.

If you would like to become a cosponsor of this legislation, please contact Jennifer in my Harrisburg office at 787-3335 or email jhaines@pahousegop.com.

LOS/jrh