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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Guy Travaglio
SUBJECT: 2003 Social Security COLA and PACE/PACENET
DATE: September 23, 2002

Upon our return from summer recess, I will be introducing legislation to increase the PACE and PACENET income eligibility to reflect the 3.5 percent cost-of-living for Social Security slated to take affect on January 1, 2003.

Approximately 11,000 senior citizens could lose their PACE/PACENET benefits as a result of the 2003 Social Security increase. In addition, the moratorium on enrollment cuts from the 2000 Social Security COLA is will expire on December 31. This will affect an additional 7,000 senior citizens.

Without our immediate attention, 18,000 Pennsylvania seniors will lose total or partial prescription coverage. The effects would be devastating for our seniors, their families, and our Commonwealth. According to the Social Security Administration's web site, the average monthly benefit for a retired worker is \$874. Therefore, a 3.5 percent increase represents only \$30. The average monthly PACE benefit is \$92.

While the COLA is critical to the welfare of the nation's elderly and disabled, it will also deny vital prescription coverage for thousands of seniors. I hope you will join me in preventing such a calamity.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please call Michelle Tharp at 7-7686.

TO: The Honorable Guy Travaglio
FROM: Bill Sloane (787-9516), Legislative Research Office
DATE: September 30, 2002
RE: Talking Points – Amendment A4508 to H.B. 496, P.N. 534

Below you will find some important points that you may want to use when arguing in support of the amendment that has been filed regarding free non-driver ID cards.

- This amendment provides for the issuance of a free non-driver identification card to anyone who is
retired and receiving Social Security or other pension
and whose total income does not exceed \$19,200.
- This is the same category of people whom we exempt from paying the annual vehicle-registration fee.
- Mr. Speaker, in June, this House approved Senate Bill 824, which says that, before a citizen is allowed to vote in an election, he must first present:
(1) either that little card that the county voter-registration commission sends out
(2) or one of several specified forms of photo identification.
- Most people cannot find their county voter-registration card, because they've never had to carry it with them before.
- Consequently, the non-driver photo identification card is going to become a practical necessity for those many people who do not have a driver's license.
- I believe that—if we are going to require an identification card in order for people to exercise their most fundamental right in a democracy—then we shouldn't prevent senior citizens who are on a limited income from going to the polls.
- I think we should all respect our elders and vote "yes" on this amendment.

§ 1510. Issuance and content of driver's license. . . .

(b) Identification card.-- . . . THE CARD SHALL BE ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE, UPON APPLICATION, TO ANY PERSON ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ONE WHO IS

RETIREMENT AND RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY OR OTHER PENSION AND WHOSE
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED \$19,200.