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STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Tom Corbett
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

Learning to do more with less is a reality currently facing many Pennsylvania residents. With the 2012-2013 budget looming, state elected officials stand at a crossroads. We closed 2011 with General Fund revenues 4 percent below expectations, equating to approximately \$486 million. We are also facing a debt to the federal government, upwards of \$3 billion, for unpaid unemployment compensation.

We are faced with tough decisions and must look at the state agencies with obese budgets. Under the previous Governor's administration, the budget in the Department of Public Welfare escalated over \$10 billion, well above the rate of inflation. In the 2011-2012 state budget, the Department of Public Welfare consumed 39 percent of General Fund spending. That is more spending than any other agency in the Commonwealth.

The original intent of a welfare system was never a long-term solution for financial support. Taxpayers can no longer afford to subsidize the lives of their neighbors. It is time to rein in the excessive spending, streamline programs and create efficiencies within the Department of Public Welfare. The Legislature has already taken the first steps to facilitate policies to crack down on fraud in the system and end the "close your eyes and authorize" policies of the Department of Public Welfare.

We are looking for your leadership to reduce spending in the upcoming budget for the Department of Public Welfare. Even if we reduced the budget by only 10 percent, we could save the taxpayers of the Commonwealth over \$1 billion. The way to grow our economy is not on the backs of taxpayers, but through reducing the taxpayer's burden.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to restore fiscal accountability in the Commonwealth through reduced spending and reduced taxes for our constituents.

For Liberty,

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe

Rep. Stephen Bloom

Rep. Bryan Cutler

Rep. George Dunbar

Rep. Eli Evankovich

Rep. Matt Gabler

Rep. Seth Grove

Rep. Rob Kauffman

Rep. Tim Krieger

Rep. Dave Maloney

Rep. Scott Perry

Rep. Kathy Rapp

Rep. Mike Reese

Rep. Brad Roae

Rep. Todd Rock

Rep. Will Tallman