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ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC  
DELEGATION  
NEW DEMOCRATIC COALITION,  
VICE CHAIR

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Dan Frankel

SUBJECT: Legislation Regarding Assault Weapons

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to require that the sale or transfer of any assault weapon be completed only through a licensed gun dealer, importer, manufacturer, or county sheriff's office.

As you may know, Title 18 currently requires that the following firearms must be sold or transferred through a licensed individual:

- Pistols or revolvers with a barrel length of less than 15 inches;
- Shotguns with a barrel length of less than 18 inches;
- Rifles with a barrel length of less than 16 inches; and
- Firearms with an overall length of less than 26 inches.

The intent of this law is to keep firearms, such as handguns, out of the hands of convicted felons and juveniles. However, a loophole exists that allows many assault weapons to be sold or transferred without going through a licensed dealer, etc. This has resulted in a proliferation of assault weapons on our streets. All one has to do is look at the ongoing problems with gun-related crimes in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to see the impact of this loophole.

With that said, I believe we must do all we can to support the law enforcement community in its efforts to ensure that assault weapons transactions are processed only by licensed individuals. In addition, this legislation would also mandate that the recipient of an assault weapon be subject to a background check.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Tracy Kocher at 705-1875 or [tkocher@pahouse.net](mailto:tkocher@pahouse.net).