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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jewell Williams

DATE: January 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Reporting of lost or stolen firearms

In the near future, I will be introducing a legislative proposal that would require a gun owner in Pennsylvania to report a lost or stolen firearm.

As many of you may recall, in 2004, a ten-year-old boy named Faheem Thomas-Childs was fatally shot in the cross fire between two criminals near a Philadelphia schoolyard. This is not an isolated case. Annually, more than 400 Pennsylvanians are killed by gunfire. The Center for Disease Control reports that firearms are the second leading cause of death for young people under the age of 19. In addition, information from the National Center for Health Statistics shows that firearms are the leading cause of death for black males between the ages of 15-35.

Pennsylvania requires the registration of newly purchased firearms; however, it does not require gun-owners to report lost or stolen firearms. With enactment of this legislation, coupled with dedicated law enforcement, we can ensure our communities are safer places to live and raise families.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Ashley Jere Roach at aroach@pahouse.net or 772-2004.