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Where Healing Begins...Helping Others by Turning Despair into Hope

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Pennsylvania House Bill 1651

According to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug use and Health, more than 7 million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs. Each day, approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time (Partnership for a Drug Free America). Some of these prescriptions are obtained from family and friends, and are taken from home medicine cabinets! Please help reduce accessibility to prescription medication by joining Guiding Hearts with Hope in supporting HB 1651.

PA HB 1651 will establish a pharmaceutical accountability monitoring system (PAMS) which will monitor all scheduled drugs (including controlled substances) which are dispensed within PA by all professionals licensed to prescribe/dispense. Each practitioner/dispenser in PA shall register with PAMS and have online access to it at all times. A patient's patterns of obtaining controlled substances will be able to be followed to prevent duplicate prescription fills. PAMS will ensure that practitioners making prescribing decisions will have complete and reliable information on what, if any, other prescription drugs have recently been prescribed to their patients.

PAMS will provide a confidential reporting mechanism in which prescription drug information is reported to a central repository to identify patient and practitioner behaviors that give rise to a reasonable suspicion that prescription drugs are being inappropriately obtained/ prescribed, so that appropriate ameliorative and corrective action, including treatment for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, may be taken.

The complete version of HB 1651 can be found at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2011&sind=0&body=H&type=B&BN=1651> or by visiting the PA General Assembly website at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/index.cfm> and type HB 1651 in the Find Legislation box to the right of the screen. Next to it you will find another box in which you can find your legislator if you don't know who they are or how to contact them.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha King at advocacymom@embarqmail.com

P/S – By the way save these dates:

April 19, 2012 – Town Hall Meeting on Rx Abuse “Consequences” by the Attorney General Office- Hanover YWCA and **April 28, 2012** the Rx Take Back Event at both Giants, Hanover, PA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha L. King".

“Recovery is remembering who you are through the darkness and using your strengths to become all that you were meant to be.”

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