



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY BANKERS

THE VOICE FOR COMMUNITY BANKING IN PENNSYLVANIA SINCE 1876

January 4, 2010

The Honorable
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative:

As you know, Pennsylvania's community bankers have been working to improve the bank robbery law in Pennsylvania. For the past few years, bills have been considered in both the House and Senate that would strengthen bank robbery penalties. However, the bills were never able to pass both chambers in the same session.

Currently, **SB 605** is in the House Appropriations Committee, after passing the Senate last spring and clearing the House Judiciary Committee in the fall. SB 605 would change the bank robbery law to make ANY attempt (armed, unarmed, threatening, non-threatening) to rob a bank a felony with mandatory sentencing. Please review the attached article, *Same Bank, Same Robber, in 8 Days*, from the Pocono Record. The poor economic conditions of the past 18 months have driven many to desperate measures--including bank robbery.

Please help to keep bank employees and their customers safe by supporting SB 605. Please talk to your colleagues about this very important bill, and urge swift action in moving the bill across the finish line in the House. Feel free to contact me or Kristine Warner anytime with questions on this bill.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Pinto
President/CEO