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NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 7, 2008
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**Prison Reform Legislation Bill and Comprehensive Gun Package Bill Poised for
Passage Today in Harrisburg**

WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Monday, April 7, 2008
9:30 am

WHERE: District Attorney's Office
Three South Square, Widener Building
Corner of Juniper and South Penn Square
Mezzanine Level Media Room

PARTICIPANTS: District Attorney Lynne Abraham
House Speaker Dennis O'Brien
Deputy Police Commissioner Richard Ross
Shirley Boggs, Founder of Mothers United Through Tragedy

District Attorney Lynne Abraham and House Speaker Dennis O'Brien will hold a joint news conference to discuss major Prison Reform legislation (House Bills 4, 5, 6, and 7) and Comprehensive Gun Package (House Bill 1845) poised for passage in the House on Monday April 7, 2008.

The goals behind the prison reform package include:

- Reduce county jail overcrowding and pressure to release jail inmates;
- Shift burden for incarceration and treatment of serious offenders from the county to the state system;
- Improve offender treatment through centralized programs, administrative support, and specialized expertise;
- Ensure truth-in-sentencing for the victim, the public and the offender;

- Provide incentives for non-violent offenders to participate in evidence-based rehabilitative programs proven to reduce the recidivism risk;
- Improve inmate safety through the improved exchange of information between the county and the state system;
- Provide for compassionate release of terminally ill inmates with appropriate safeguards;
- Improve county and state parole practices through parole guidelines that ensure consistency and fairness;
- Encourage parole resources to focus on higher risk offenders; and
- Reduce taxpayer costs through the centralization of treatment programs and prisoner transportation.

DA Abraham and Speaker O'Brien also plan to show their support of House Bill 1845, legislation aimed at attacking gun violence in Philadelphia, scheduled for a final House vote on April 7th. This comprehensive package, among other things, addresses the complex problems of dealing with the "straw purchases" of handguns.

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