

For immediate release

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Allegheny Conference congratulates PA Senate on passage of municipal pension reform legislation
Calls for quick action on HB 1828 in the House

(Pittsburgh, PA – August 27, 2009) Late yesterday, the PA Senate passed key legislation to begin municipal pension reform in Pennsylvania. House Bill 1828, which amends key provisions of Act 205, is the first step needed to improve the funding of municipal pension plans across the state including those in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

“On behalf of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, we congratulate the PA Senate for its leadership in passing HB 1828. We recognize that many Senators, specifically Senator Jane Orié, through her work with the Institute of Politics on municipal pensions, as well as Senators Jay Costa, Jim Ferlo, Wayne Fontana and Pat Browne have led this issue to the forefront of the legislative agenda,” said Dennis Yablonsky, CEO, Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

The underfunding of municipal pension plans has been a growing problem for a cross-section of Pennsylvania’s governments, but 2008 market losses have turned that problem into a crisis. If municipal pension plan recovery legislation is not passed by the end of the year, significantly larger mandatory payments will result in higher taxes and/or cuts in municipal services.

A coalition of organizations across the Commonwealth, coordinated by the statewide Pennsylvania Economy League, has been steadfastly working to assure that this important issue receives the legislative attention it requires.

“While we commend the Senate for its quick and decisive positive action on HB 1828, there is more work to be done. The Conference strongly urges the PA House to act just as quickly and decisively to pass HB 1828 in order to realize real progress on this critical issue for all of Pennsylvania,” said Yablonsky.

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The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.alleghenyconference.org.