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AUDITOR GENERAL

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News for Immediate Release

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Auditor General DePasquale Favors College Transparency, Accountability

Encouraged by legislative effort to implement audit recommendations for state-related universities

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today expressed his support for a legislative effort to improve transparency and accountability at Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh and Lincoln University.

DePasquale issued the following statement supporting a co-sponsorship memo released today by state Reps. Aaron Bernstine, Jim Christiana and John Maher to make these four state-related universities subject to the state’s Right-to-Know Law and Ethics Act and to reduce the size of the Penn State Board of Trustees.

“It is high time for the General Assembly to make these four universities subject to all the provisions of both the commonwealth’s Right-to-Know Law and the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act.

“It is absurd that these four universities receive hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds, but are currently exempted from these two important transparency and accountability measures. Financial disclosure is key to help assure that tax dollars at our state-related institutions are being spent by officials who are impartial and free of financial conflicts.

“As I have said for years, the size of the boards of trustees at these schools — not just at Penn State — should be cut to more manageable and efficient numbers.

“These three commonsense measures will go a long way toward ensure the transparency and accountability that students, parents and taxpayers deserve.”

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