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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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April 30, 1999

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown II
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Dear Mr. Nyce:

Enclosed herewith please find a copy of correspondence that I have recently received from the Northern Tier Children's Home, Mr. Merle Herr, located in Harrison Valley, Pennsylvania that serves my legislative district. Mr. Herr forwarded to me a copy of correspondence that he received from Mr. Herk Marsella indicating great concern about the current regulations that have been proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare that are extensively attempting to regulate all agencies and facilities that work with youth. I believe that you will find the letter from Mr. Herk Marsella self explanatory and what I believe reflects legitimate concerns regarding the treatment of clients and secured facilities requiring 24 hour supervision. The assumption of the regulations that clients who are in secured treatment settings are a severe risk at all times, and that quite frankly is not the case. Because there are different levels of treatment and different degrees of risk, it seems to me to be patently unfair that the DPW wants to create a standard that does not appear either fair or flexible. In any event, I submit for your consideration the attached self explanatory three page letter, hoping that due diligence and consideration will be made to the suggestions and needed corrections to the proposed 3800 regulations now being advocated by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

I know that this matter will be carefully and effectively reviewed. Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew E. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Matthew E. Baker
State Representative
68th Legislative District

cc: Merle Herr
Herk Marsella