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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

STATE GOVERNMENT,
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
CAPITOL PRESERVATION, CHAIRMAN
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

October 12, 1999

Nancy L. Gippert, Assistant Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Re: Proposed Regulations #52-010

Dear Ms. Gippert:

These comments in response to the above-referenced proposed regulations will follow-up the State Government Committee meeting we held on September 29. I appreciated your participation in that meeting as we were able to discuss these proposed regulations in an informal, informative setting.

It is my understanding that the guidelines in these regulations and the information provided by the PHRC have been excellent resources for those involved in advertising residential housing.

I would, however, concur with some of the specific suggestions of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association in its recent comments. Specifically, I believe it would be beneficial and in keeping with § 9.1(b) of Act 34, to have the list of words, phrases and symbols updated on a periodic basis. In addition, there often seems to be some confusions as to what is and is not acceptable advertisements for shared housing in one's own home. These regulations could be used to clarify the requirements of such housing advertisements.

Finally, as was discussed at our September 29 meeting, I do believe the regulations should implement Section 6 of Act 34 of 1997 which requires that 16 Pa. Code § 45.8(a) be nullified. To the extent that the regulations fail to address this provision, I believe they are in direct violation of both the "spirit" and the "letter" of Section 6 of Act 34. Particularly in light of the fact that we no longer have specific federal regulatory guidance in this area, I believe it is the responsibility of the State to do so and this is the appropriate time for it to be done.

Nancy L. Gippert, Assistant Chief Counsel
Page 2
October 12, 1999

Again, thank you for your conscientious effort to make this "word list" a practical resource for advertisers in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", written in a cursive style.

PAUL I. CLYMER, Chairman
House State Government Committee

PIC/erk

cc: The Honorable Dennis Leh