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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

**CHAIR,
NORTHEAST DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION**

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
DEMOCRATIC POLICY

October 25, 1999

Attachment A

Mr. Robert E. Nyce
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown #2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Original: 2073
Mizner
Copies: Harris
Jewett
Sandusky
Wyatte

Dear Mr. Nyce:

It is with great reservation that we write to recommend approval on November 4 of the Department of Public Welfare's proposed changes to Pennsylvania's *Child Care Works* regulations.

As you may be aware, the *Child Care Works* regulations that went into effect last February and March have hurt Pennsylvania working families and child care providers in several ways, in particular, by 1) doubling and tripling the co-payments that many of these working parents have to pay for subsidized child care; and 2) reducing the income eligibility for subsidized child care.

Since these regulations went into effect, we have heard from hundreds of constituents that the changes are likely to force working families onto welfare and drive child care providers out of business. At town meetings across the state, parents and advocates have testified about the hardships these changes have caused. As you recall, during the IRRC hearing last November, DPW Secretary Feather Houstoun promised you that she would be willing to re-evaluate the changes if families were hurt by them. In July, DPW announced some minor changes to the regulations, but they are not enough.

These changes, which you will consider on November 4, would offer some relief to working families between 185 percent and 235 percent of federal poverty guidelines. These families were scheduled to be dropped out of the program early next year, a move that would literally have devastated the budgets of many families who already struggle to make ends meet. It is for this reason that we recommend that you approve these changes.

However, we remain very concerned with the unaffordable co-payments that working families in the program must continue to pay. The reductions that will result from the new changes are minimal and will provide no relief for the lowest income families – those in greatest danger of being forced onto welfare. For that reason, we urge you to recommend that DPW re-evaluate the impact of these co-payments and make reductions that will help families to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Signatures attached—(three pages)

SUBSIDIZED CHILD DAY CARE REGULATIONS LETTER TO IRRC

State Representative Signature and Legislative District

<i>[Signature]</i>	123	<i>[Signature]</i>	21st
Robert Freeman	130	Phyllis Mundy	120th
John T. Gudelek	119		
<i>[Signature]</i>	133		
Tom O. Esch	116		
<i>[Signature]</i>	137		
Keith L. McCue	129		
Chute Aarts	126		
Thomas H. Callaghan	127		
Joseph W. Battista	189		
Fred Belardi	112th		
Gaynor Landry	113TH.		
Thomas Tigue	118TH		
John R. Judue	109		
<i>[Signature]</i>	107		
<i>[Signature]</i>	115th		
<i>[Signature]</i>	121st		
Steve Samuelson	135th		

SUBSIDIZED CHILD DAY CARE REGULATIONS LETTER TO IRRC

State Representative Signature and Legislative District

<u>Richard J. ...</u>	<u>19th</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>203</u>
<u>Mark S. Frankel</u>	<u>23rd</u>	<u>Ronald Water</u>	<u>185</u>
<u>Thomas A. ...</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>Sam Robert</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Jim Skayce</u>	<u>52nd</u>	<u>Tim Solby</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>John A. ...</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>Joe Markese</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Tony ...</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Volodymyr ...</u>	<u>46th</u>	<u>Tom Michlovic</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>75th</u>	<u>Frank ...</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Amos ...</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>Thomas C. ...</u>	<u>140</u>
<u>Susan ...</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Terry E. Van Horn</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>L. ...</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>Raul ...</u>	<u>103</u>
<u>Greg ...</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>Bill ...</u>	<u>50th</u>
<u>Nick ...</u>	<u>15th</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Frank ...</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>Greg ...</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>Paul ...</u>	<u>34th</u>	<u>Connie ...</u>	<u>149</u>
<u>Frank ...</u>	<u>22nd</u>	<u>Tom ...</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>K. W. ...</u>	<u>38th</u>	<u>Joseph ...</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Steve ...</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>Fred ...</u>	<u>45th</u>
<u>John ...</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>Ralph ...</u>	<u>41st</u>

SUBSIDIZED CHILD DAY CARE REGULATIONS LETTER TO IRRC

State Representative Signature and Legislative District

David P. Crossman	36	James E. Connors	56
David M. ...	29th	Chris Janney	9
Paul R. ...	202nd	Thomas C. Petrone	27
John ...	194 th	W. ...	190
John ...	106 th	Edward P. ...	71
Lawrence H. Curry	154 th	Richard ...	197
John ...	62 nd	Walter ...	20
Chris ...	33	M. ...	76 th
...	133	Laura M. ...	200
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