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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
December 30, 1999

COMMITTEES

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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POLICY

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Attn: Commissioners

333 Market St.

Harrisburg 2, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee here at the House of Representatives because I have a concern about the Department of Health's Proposed Regulation 10-154.

Specifically, the square footage requirement for sleeping space is unreasonable. The Department claimed the regulations purpose was to amend out-dated physical plant regulations. Section 705.5(b), however, goes too far. The requirement could cause otherwise good facilities to reduce capacity - a capacity we could ill afford to lose.

I support the Department's right and duty to ensure that poor facilities not be allowed to operate in Pennsylvania, but this requirement is in fact not therapeutic. Residents trying to overcome addiction do not need large bedrooms, they need counseling and therapeutic activities to help them recover.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis M. O'Brien".

DENNIS M. O'BRIEN, Chairman
Health and Human Services Committee

DMO'B:MB:mp

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JUDICIARY
POLICY

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

The Honorable Robert E. Nyce

333 Market St.

Harrisburg 2, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Executive Director Nyce:

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