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05/02/2001

Eva Cheney, Board Counsel
State Board of Social Workers and Family Therapists
and Professional Counselors
116 Pine Street
P.O. Box 2649
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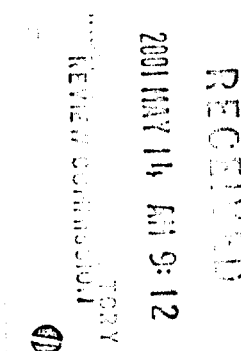
Dear Ms. Cheney:

This correspondence is directed to your good office regarding the proposed regulations for Licensure of Professional Counselors published in the March 24, 2001 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

I was made aware that certain provisions introduced in the earlier mentioned publication may be detrimental to certain individuals practicing marriage and family counseling.

The provisions in question are those mentioned in correspondence from Patricia M. Dwyer, D.Min. and Frank L. Crouch. After reading their letters, I would like to show my support for their suggested changes to the proposed licensure regulations specifically those in the following sections:

- Section 49.1 – Should be expanded to include the phrase, “but not limited to” following the word, “includes” in the definition.
- Section 48.1 – Should be expanded to include, “medicine, nursing, ministry/theology, education, or any other field acceptable for entry into postgraduate training in marriage and family therapy” in the definition.
- Section 48.13(b)(1) – Which restricts marriage and family therapists from working with individuals or groups, should be expanded to include, “individual and group therapy”



Although I understand that counselor education and licensing is a necessary part of maintaining the highest quality of care. One must ask, how restrictive is too restrictive?

If individuals like Ms. Dwyer, are no longer licensed because of what is printed on their diploma many families and groups seeking help may not be able to find reliable and creditable help in solving their problems.

Family cohesiveness is key to promoting a health society. With divorce rates as high as 50%, it is necessary that we have trained professional, readily available to assist families and couples in their times of crisis.

I would please ask you to review, Mr. Crouch and Ms. Dwyer's suggested changes attached to their correspondence. If I can be of any further assistance do not hesitate to contact my office regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Boscola", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LISA BOSCOLA
State Senator
18th Senatorial District

CC: Independent Regulatory Review Commission [333 Market Street, 14th Street, 14 Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101]

Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

House Professional Licensure Committee