



ORIGINAL: 2208

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October 21, 2002

The Honorable Mario Civera  
Chair, Professional Licensure Committee  
PA House of Representatives  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Civera:

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA), I am writing to request your disapproval of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors' (Board's) final rulemaking No. 16A-695 relating to fees.

We request disapproval based on Section 47.34 pertaining to the Registration of Continuing Education Providers, Courses and Programs. This section had been raised as a concern by NASW-PA during the proposed rulemaking phase in our letter dated September 12, 2001 but it was not acted upon by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. We reiterate our concern that this section is unfair and excessive. Section 47.34, as written, is unclear as to whether it applies only to the course or program provider, or if it also applies to the individual licensee seeking approval of a continuing education program. Based on our review of the Board's Regulatory Analysis Form from August, 2001, it appears to be the intent of the Board to require the individual licensee to pay \$40 every time the licensee needs a continuing education program approved to meet their requirement of 30 continuing education hours.

NASW-PA believes that this requirement of \$40 per program approval (which could potentially cost a licensee hundreds of dollars on an annual basis) is more than a "modest fiscal impact" on the regulated community as was stated by the Board in their Fee Report Form. We agree with the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's statement from October 25, 2001 stating that the "Board should consider deleting the course registration provisions from this rulemaking. Instead, the Board should promulgate continuing education requirements and registration of course providers together in a future

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**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER**  
National Association of Social Workers

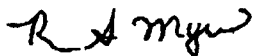
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rulemaking...to allow affected parties to consider the full implications of these requirements.”

Although the IRRC was referring directly to Sections 48.4 and 49.3 in the proposed rulemaking which only affect Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, we agree with the IRRC's philosophy that fees related to course registration should be addressed in a rulemaking focused on the overall issue of continuing education so that there can be a thorough analysis of procedure and costs, etc. NASW-PA has already provided information to the Board regarding their draft continuing education rulemaking and we would be happy to work with them and address the issue of appropriate fees for course registration.

NASW-PA realizes that our requested action of disapproval may not occur. If that is the case, we will continue to advocate for changes to these regulations that will ensure a streamlined, effective and fair process. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (717.232.4125).

Sincerely,



Rebecca S. Myers, LSW  
Executive Director

cc: Thomas Matta  
Beth Michlovitz, Esquire  
John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission