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August 26, 2002

Mr. John R. McGinley, Jr., Esq., Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

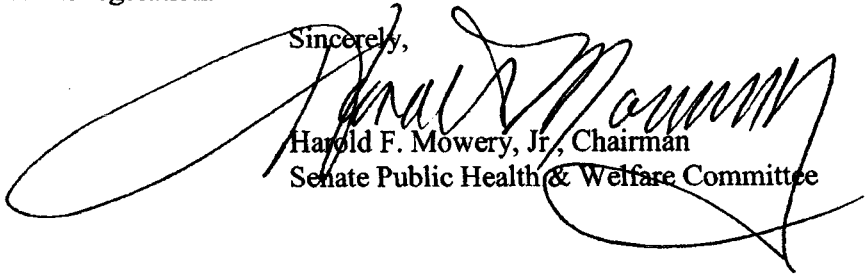
Dear Mr. McGinley:

I am writing in support of the Department of Public Welfare's final form regulation, No. 14-474, that creates and establishes eligibility requirements for the Extended Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Extended TANF).

The regulation accurately reflects the legislative intent of Act 1996-35 (P.L. 175, No.35) by promoting self-sufficiency and limiting the ongoing receipt of cash assistance to those taking appropriate steps toward self-sufficiency. The success of Pennsylvania's welfare reform efforts has provided the Department of Public Welfare with the opportunity to creatively use the 20% exemption to the five-year time limit allowed under the federal government's Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996; and the regulation is evidence that the Department has used that opportunity wisely. I believe that the Department has reviewed and addressed the comments and suggestions received following publication of proposed rulemaking, and incorporated appropriate suggestions into this final form regulation.

Again, I support regulation 14-474 and would urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the regulation.

Sincerely,


Harold F. Mowery, Jr., Chairman
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

HFM/hsj

cc. Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, Minority Chairman
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee