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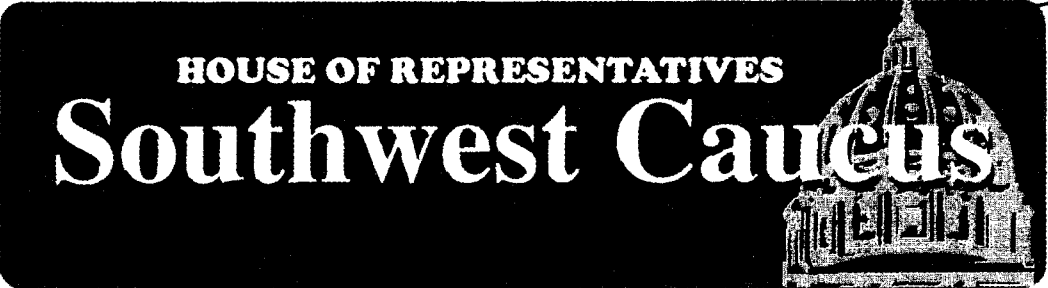
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Executive Director



February 22, 2005

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear IRRRC Members:

On behalf of members of the Southwest Caucus I am writing to adamantly oppose the Department of Public Welfare's Final-Form Regulation #14-475 relating to Personal Care Homes. We feel that the concerns of the small providers were not adequately considered and addressed in the Regulation.

Although this Final-Form Regulation will adversely affect all personal care homes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the cost to meet these new requirements will dramatically increase and put most, if not all, of the small personal care homes out of business. Of particular concern is the exorbitant cost involved in the physical site requirements and the enormous cost to meet the added training requirements for administrators and staff.

The Department of Public Welfare did not sufficiently incorporate the recommendations that were submitted by small providers, provider groups, inspectors and residents.

It is unconscionable that the acceptance of this Final-Form Regulation will put the small providers out of business, hundreds of people out of work, and thousands of residents displaced.

With this in mind, members of the Southwest Caucus are requesting the Commission's disapproval of this Regulation for further review and consideration of these critical issues that need to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Petrarca, Chairman
Southwest Caucus

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