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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**  
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

February 24, 2005

Honorable Estelle B. Richman, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
333 Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Regulation #14-475 (IRRC #2294)  
Department of Public Welfare  
Personal Care Homes

Dear Secretary Richman:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the subject regulation today. Our Order is enclosed and will be available on our website at [www.irrc.state.pa.us](http://www.irrc.state.pa.us).

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,



John R. McGinley, Jr.

Chairman

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Enclosure

cc: Honorable Jake Corman, Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, Minority Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Honorable George T. Kenney, Jr., Majority Chairman, House Health and Human Services Committee  
Honorable Frank L. Oliver, Democratic Chairman, House Health and Human Services Committee

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held February 24, 2005

John R. McGinley, Jr., Esq., Chairman  
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Proxy  
Daniel F. Clark, Esq.  
Arthur Coccodrilli  
Murray Ufberg, Esq.

Regulation No. 14-475  
Department of Public Welfare  
Personal Care Homes

On September 23, 2002, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Public Welfare (Department). This rulemaking amends Title 55 Pa. Code by replacing Chapter 2620 with Chapter 2600. The proposed regulation was published in the October 5, 2002 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on November 4, 2004. The Commission received a request from the Department on February 3, 2005, to toll consideration of this final-form regulation to make revisions based on requests from the House Health and Human Services and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committees, and this Commission. On February 11, 2005, the Department submitted its revisions to the final-form regulation to the Commission.

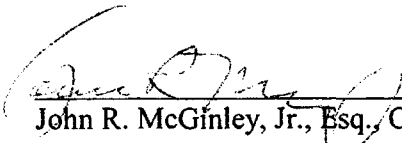
This regulation is a comprehensive revision and update of the requirements and standards governing the licensing and inspection of personal care homes in the Commonwealth. The regulation includes new provisions covering residents' rights, staff qualifications and training, fire safety, medication administration and resident evaluations. The Department indicates that there are approximately 1,700 personal care homes in the Commonwealth and these facilities serve approximately 54,000 people.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (62 P.S. §§ 211, 901-922 and 1001-1087) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:**

This regulation is approved.



  
John R. McGinley, Jr., Esq., Chairman