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November 20, 2002

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

Dear Chairman McGinley:

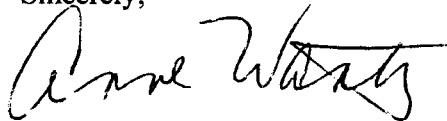
On behalf of the Pennsylvania Health Care Association, I write to convey our strong support for Department of Public Welfare Regulation 14-480, Invoicing for Services, which corrects an inequity in the time period permitted for Medical Assistance Providers to submit a final claim for payment under the Medicaid program.

We have been working for several years to have this change implemented and are pleased to see that it will occur effective in January of 2003. We remain unclear, and seek the advice of the Department with regard to how the department will determine the status of bills in process, and whether the date of service will be used to determine when the amended regulation will apply. We have requested this clarification from the department, and await their reply.

This amendment will enable the long term care provider community additional time to navigate the often complication medical assistance payment system on behalf of our residents, and urge the approval of the Commission.

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne Wantz
Chief Operating Officer