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May 13, 2004

Honorable Allen D. Biehler, P.E., Secretary Department of Transportation Keystone Building, 8th Floor 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Regulation #18-374 (IRRC #2346)
Department of Transportation
Physical and Mental Criteria, Including Vision Standards Relating to the Licensing of Drivers

Dear Secretary Biehler:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the subject regulation today. Our Order is enclosed and will be available on our website at <u>www.irrc.state.pa.us</u>.

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

Sincerely,

n C. Bush

Vice Chairman wbg Enclosure

cc: Honorable Roger A. Madigan, Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee Honorable J. Barry Stout, Minority Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee Honorable Richard A. Geist, Majority Chairman, House Transportation Committee Honorable Keith R. McCall, Democratic Chairman, House Transportation Committee

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION APPROVAL ORDER

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held May 13, 2004

John R. McGinley, Jr., Esq., Chairman, by Phone Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman Daniel F. Clark, Esq. Arthur Coccodrilli Murray Ufberg, Esq., by Proxy Regulation No. 18-374 Department of Transportation Physical and Mental Criteria, Including Vision Standards Relating to the Licensing of Drivers

On August 11, 2003, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Transportation (Department). This rulemaking amends 67 Pa. Code Chapter 83. The proposed regulation was published in the August 23, 2003 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on April 7, 2004. On April 16, 2004, the Department simultaneously tolled and resubmitted the final-form regulation to correct a drafting error.

The regulation amends the criteria used by providers when conducting physical examinations of applicants for learners' permits and drivers' licenses. The amended criteria will also be used by providers to determine whether a person should be reported to the Department as having a disorder affecting the ability of the person to drive safely. The amended criteria reflect advances in the practice of medicine and medical research related to the ability of individuals with seizure disorders to drive safely and advances in opthomological research.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (75 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 1512, 1517, 1518 and 6103) 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.



Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman