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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

November 8, 2004

**COMMITTEES**

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Attn: Bob Nyce  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrisstown 2  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Bob:

Recently, federal changes have been made to MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) designations that occur with each census. Because the changes would create disruption and undue hardship on the nursing home provider community, the Department of Public Welfare has been faced with the choice of maintaining this new regulation or changing it in order to continue the previous MSA's.

DPW did choose to maintain the status quo MSA's. These regulations are scheduled to make their way through the IRRC and certain legislative committees.

If this decision of maintaining status quo is not approved, Lancaster and York counties will receive a lesser reimbursement. Research found that these two counties alone will lose approximately \$186,000 in funding for their nursing homes.

As a State Senator representing portions of both Lancaster and York, I ask you to review and approve DPW's proposal. Delay in implementation of either alternative would be extremely problematic, not only in the counties I represent, but also in the other counties throughout Pennsylvania.

Resolving this matter quickly and efficiently will keep funding available to continue good quality care and protection for our seniors and citizens in nursing homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gibson E. Armstrong, Senator  
Lancaster and York Counties

cc: Senator Mowery

Senator Brightbill

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