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Original: 2429

October 19, 2004

Mr. Robert Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Regulation No. 14-489

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am writing this letter to request approval of Regulation 14-489, which makes revisions to the subsidized child care program under the Department of Public Welfare.

These changes are certainly a step in the right direction to providing much needed child care to working families. I am especially pleased with the reduction in the required working hours from 25-20 hours a week. This reduction alleviates the burden placed on parents who only work part-time and are not eligible for TANF.

Additionally, there are a number of changes that have been put in place that recognize the different types of jobs held by parents. The expansion of uninterrupted sleep time hours, extended child care through summer break and the removal of the minimum wage requirement help make child care more accessible to parents who work in a nursing, education or service sector position. These new provisions also recognize the struggles of parents who have involuntarily lost employment or are upon completion of an education or training program by extending care for 60 more days.

I am particularly pleased with the simplification of verification requirements for child care. The elimination of court mandated child support, a simplified redetermination process every 6 months where parents do not have to submit information in person but can do so by mail gives parents the benefit of not having to take off from work or use leave to attend proceedings. I also commend the Department for making the eligibility and verification process easier for parents who are victims of domestic violence by creating a waiver of certain eligibility requirements and accommodating these parents by allotting more time for the submittal of documents.



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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NORTHEAST DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION**

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What is more, these changes not only simplify the process for parents but help to enhance child growth and development. I applaud the extension of eligibility of care to children from low income families involved in a Head Start or Pre-K program that need extended hours of day care. I agree with the Department that these changes will promote "continuous uninterrupted care that helps a child maintain stable relationships and promotes sequenced cognitive, social and emotional development."

Again, I urge your consideration in approving the changes to the current regulations. I know these revisions will go a long way in helping working families receive adequate child care and maintain self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Mundy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Phyllis Mundy
State Representative
120th Legislative district