

2008 MAR 17 AM 9: 51

Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli  
333 Market Street  
14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

On behalf of the 1750 members of the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC), I am writing in regard to the proposed changes to the child care facility regulations submitted by the Department of Public Welfare to the General Assembly and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on March 10, 2008. The child care facility regulations provide minimum standards for the operation of approximately 9000 child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes that serve over 300,000 children. I am asking you to support passage of the final-form child care regulations.

The child care facility regulations, which protect the health, safety and rights of children and reduce risks to children in child care facilities, were last updated in April 1992. The final form regulations address the protection of children, reflect current best practice and research, improve clarity, and provide clear, consistent information to the provider and parent community about what the Departments will examine when it conducts a site visit. Highlights of the final-form regulations include the following:

- **Updated health and safety requirements to reflect best practices & research** - New research has resulted in changes to health and safety recommendations regarding SIDS prevention, playground safety, staff tuberculosis testing, removal of recalled toys and equipment, disposable gloves in first aid kit, maximum indoor temperature and diapering.
- **Made the regulations easier to read and more accessible to providers and parents** - Twelve statements of policy have been released since 1992 and must be incorporated into the regulations themselves. These include important requirements relating to emergency plans, supervision of children, Syrup of Ipecac, release of children, posting inspection summaries, Departmental access and swimming pool accessibility
- **Updated the regulations to include correct reference to other applicable laws** - By referencing the correct current laws, providers, parents and the public will be better able to locate additional information about laws that impact the operation of a child care facility including requirements relating to certificate of occupancy, vehicle safety, childhood immunizations and children with special needs.
- **Improved opportunity for facility compliance** - Areas of typical noncompliance were examined and when possible, changes are proposed that will balance assistance to the facilities in compliance while ensuring minimum health and safety at a facility.

As the professional association of early childhood educators, DVAEYC's mission is to act on behalf of the rights, needs and well-being of young children. These proposed changes will move Pennsylvania's child care system closer to that end. We urge to ensure their swift approval.

Sincerely,



Sharon Easterling  
Executive Director