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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Anna Jones
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#2539

Hon. Frank Andrews Shimkus
27B East Wing
PO Box 202113
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2113

Dear Hon. Frank Andrews Shimkus,

On March 10, 2008, the Department of Public Welfare submitted final-form child care facility regulations to the General Assembly and to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). The child care facility regulations provide minimum standards for the operation of approximately 9,000 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 to the final-form child care regulations.

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

- Updated health and safety requirements to reflect best practices and research
- Made the regulations easier to read and more accessible to providers and parents
- Updated the regulations to include correct reference to other applicable laws
- Improved opportunity for facility compliance

I am asking you to support the final-form child care regulation in order to advance the protection of children receiving care in more than 9,000 child care facilities in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,