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From: Douglas P. Wilson [dwilson@keystone.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:13 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Department of Public Welfare (Regulations)

2008 MAR 24 PM 3:04

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To whom it may concern,

I am a student at Keystone College enrolled in a Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Certificate Program. In our Contemporary Issues in Education course this issue was brought to our attention. In an effort to pass the final-form child care regulations we are asking that you strongly consider supporting these new regulations. Please review the attached document for more information.

Best Regards,

Doug Wilson

3/24/2008

#2539

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2008 MAR 24 PM 3:04

Douglas Wilson
RR2 Box 80
Mehoopany, PA 18629
Keystone College Education Major

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hon. Karen Boback
7844 Blue Ridge Trail
Mountain Top, PA 18707

Dear Hon. Karen Boback,

I am a student at Keystone College enrolled as Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Certification Program. Attending the Contemporary Issues in Education Course, it has been brought to my attention that the Department of Public Welfare submitted final-form child care facility regulations to the General Assembly and to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). As you may know, the regulations mentioned provide minimum standards for the operation of approximately 9,000 child care centers that serve over 300,000 children. I'm asking you to please support the passage of the final-form child care regulations.

Since most child care facilities do not require that its employees be certifiably educated in that field, their regulations are often scrutinized. These regulations protect health, safety and rights of children and reduce risks to children in child care facilities. The regulations were last updated in April of 1992. The regulations reflect 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 include:

- **Made the regulations more legible and accessible to providers and parents** – Twelve statements of policy have been released since 1992 and must be incorporated into the new regulations. These include requirements relating to emergency plans, supervision of children, Syrup of Ipecac, release of children, posting inspection summaries, Departmental access and swimming pool accessibility.
- **Updated health and safety requirements to reflect best practiced and researched** – Changes to health and safety recommendations have been researched 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.
- **Updated 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, and childhood immunizations and children with special needs
- **Improved opportunity for facility compliance** – Areas of typical non compliance 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.

I'm simply 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,

Douglas Wilson