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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

**Hon. James Wansacz**  
108 South Main Street  
Old Forge, PA 18518

Dear Mr. James Wansacz,

On, March 10, 2008, the Department of Public Welfare submitted final-form child care facility regulations to the General Assembly and to the IRRC. The regulations provide minimum standards to approximately 9,000 child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes that serve over 300,000 children. I am asking that you support passage of the final-form child care regulations.

These regulations protect the health, safety and rights of children and reduce the risks that children face in child care facilities. It has been brought to my attention that the regulations were last updated in April of 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 Departments 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 & research-** New research has resulted in several changes to health and safety recommendations that are, in some cases, crucial.
- **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.
- **Updated the regulations to include correct reference to other applicable laws-** It is important to reference current laws to parents, providers and the public so that they are better able to locate additional information regarding laws that apply to childcare.
- **Improved opportunity for facility compliance-** Areas of typical noncompliance were examined and when possible, changes are proposed.

Sincerely,

Lucilia Lopes