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**Pennsylvania
Partnerships for Children**

Joan L. Benso, *President and CEO*

David W. Sweet, Esq., *Chair of the Board*

116 Pine Street, Suite 430, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1244

March 26, 2008

Arthur Coccodrilli, IRRRC Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Reference Regulation No. #14-506 (#2539)

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) is a strong, effective, and trusted voice for improving the health, education, and well-being of the Commonwealth's children. PPC supports the final form regulations for PA Code 55, Chapters 3200 and 3300, Child Care Facilities submitted by the Department of Public Welfare on March 10, 2008.

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. Pennsylvania's child care regulations have not seen significant changes in over 15 years. These changes update the standards to aid in protecting the health, safety, and rights of children and to reduce risks to children in regulated child care settings.

The Department was highly responsive to the comments and suggestions they received regarding the regulations, including those raised by PPC. In addition, the final form regulations reflect best practice and current research, as well as protections for children with special needs.

It is PPC's belief that the Commonwealth has a responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all children in out-of-home child care. PPC encourages the Commonwealth to adopt these final form regulations.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Benso
President and CEO

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