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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

On behalf of the 1500 members of the *Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC)*, I am writing to express our full support for the Department of Public Welfare's final-form regulation affecting, Chapters 3270, 3280, 3290 for child care facilities; and also for changes to Chapter 168 to affect the unification of the child care subsidy system.

DVAEYC's mission is to act on behalf of the rights, needs and well-being of young children (birth-eight) in Southeastern Pennsylvania. These proposed changes to the child care regulations will support a larger effort on the part of the Commonwealth to ensure that all children have access to high quality early education services that support their optimal development.

We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to support these changes for the following reasons:

- The regulatory changes reflect what we know are best practices for children and represent the **minimal** standards to keep children healthy and safe
- The unification of the child care subsidy system will ensure that all parents receive child care counseling services that **enable them to make informed child care decisions**, and
- Unification **will increase access to the subsidy system** as more providers will participate in the subsidy system that is reliable and timely in payments to providers

As an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, I come to the work of early childhood education advocacy as an expression of my call to ministry. For almost 20 years I worked with young children in the Kensington section of Philadelphia and witnessed first-hand what the research tells us - that children who are at risk from the effects of poverty are profoundly helped by having access to high quality early education opportunities.

These changes in the proposed regulations will improve all child care in the Commonwealth, but will have a greater impact on child care services for families living in poverty. We owe these families the same access to excellent child care programs that families with more resources choose for their children. I sincerely hope that you will use your power and influence on behalf of these most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Sharon Easterling

Sharon Easterling, Director

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