

2539

Kathy Cooper

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From: Diss, Denise [c-dediss@state.pa.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2006 10:52 AM
To: IRRRC
Cc: Huth, Kathleen A.; Frein, Robert J.
Subject: Support for DPW Regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

**Child
Care
Information
Services of Westmoreland County**

766 East Pittsburgh Street
Suite 202
Greensburg, PA 15601
Toll Free (800) 548-2741
Fax (724) 836-5415

October 19, 2006

Dear IRRRC:

I am writing to express full support of the Department of Public Welfare's final-form regulation, Chapters 3270, 3280, 3290 Child Care Facilities, regulation number #14-506 (#2539).

I am also writing to express full support of the Department of Public Welfare's final-form regulation Chapter 168, Child Care, regulation number #14-505 (#2549).

I support both sets of child care regulations because these regulations are good for children and families. Families and children will benefit from having one community agency with expertise in child care to handle the entire subsidized child care program.

Over 340,000 families and children will benefit from updated health and safety guidelines in all types of child care settings. The regulations are beneficial for both profit and non-profit programs, including religious child care programs for the following reasons.

First, DPW does not regulate program content. Providers currently do and will continue to have the ability to shape the content of their programs. These regulations do not restrict the religious content of any child care program. Second, the regulations do not limit the ability of religious programs to participate in the subsidized child care program. Religious programs have always participated in Pennsylvania's subsidized child care program and they will continue to be able to do so as long as they are meeting the basic health and safety regulations. Finally, all child care programs should be required to meet basic health and safety requirements. It is required by state law and in the best

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interest of Pennsylvania's children.

I strongly urge you to support these regulations, which will result in improving child care in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise L. Diss

Director, CCIS of Westmoreland County

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