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Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

RE: Support of Regulations #14-505 (#2549) and #14-506 (#2539)

Dear Independent Regulatory review Committee (IRRC):

I am writing to express my full support for the two sets of child care regulations.

The subsidy/unification regulations #14-505 (#2549) will improve the subsidized child care program. Currently, TANF/FS/GA children are being served at the County Assistance Offices (CAO) and Former TANF and Low-Income Working Families are being served at the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies. This division creates needlessly complicated systems for parents and providers, and unnecessary duplication of administrative functions. Under these changes, all families and children will be served through the CCIS agencies.

The certification regulations #14-506 (#2539) provides standards to aid in protecting the health, safety and rights of children and to reduce risks to children protecting child health and safety.

These regulations are beneficial for both for profit and non-profit programs, including religious child care programs.

1. DPW does not regulate program content and 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.
2. The regulations do not limit the ability of religious programs to participate in the subsidized child care program. Religious programs have always participated in subsidized child care program. They will continue to be able to do so as long as they are meeting the basic health and safety relations.
3. All child care programs should be required to meet basic health and safety requirements. It is required by state law and in the best interest of Pennsylvania's children.

Sincerely,

Tammy Barnhart

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Program Coordinator

Franklin County Early Care and Education

Community Engagement Program

Cc: Sen. Jake Corman
Sen. Vincent Hughes
Rep. Jerry Birmelin
Rep. Michael Gruitza

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