

October 23, 2006

Alvin C. Bush, Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Bush:

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association stands in support of final-form regulation ID #14-506 (#2539) regarding child care facilities as drafted by the Department of Public Welfare. These changes amend Title 55, Chapters 3270, 3280, 3290 and 3300.

While these revisions primarily affect the operations of child day care centers for infant and preschool-age children, the rules also impact school-age child care programs conducted in school buildings or other facilities.

PSBA believes that the department's proposed regulation properly updates the current rules by incorporating the various changes in policies and procedures that have occurred since they were last promulgated in 1992. The association generally supports these changes.

Specifically, PSBA also supports the department's amendment of the definitions of "preschool child" and "young school-age child" that will allow a child in kindergarten to be considered in the latter category. The inclusion of kindergarten children in the definition of "young school-age child" will allow before- and after-school programs to work under less stringent requirements. Consequently, those programs may experience lower operating costs.

Finally, the association offers its support for the department's amendments to language concerning the administration of medication and special diets as described in Sections 3270.133, 3280.133 and 3290.133. As proposed, the regulations include new language that call for a facility to make reasonable accommodation to administer a prescribed medication or special diet to a child with special needs. It also maintains and clarifies the existing language stating that facility staff is not required to administer medication or special diets to a child who does not have special needs. In addition, the regulation

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maintains the existing language that details the requirements that would apply if facility staff does choose to administer medication. PSBA believes this approach taken by the department to allow facility staff to administer medication is reasonable and should be continued.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the final-form regulation. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of the issues addressed in this letter.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Allwein  
Assistant Executive Director  
Governmental and Member Relations

cc: Sen. Jake Corman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Sen. Vincent Hughes, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Rep. Jerry Birmelin, House Children and Youth Committee  
Rep. Michael Gruitza, House Children and Youth Committee  
Ms. Jennifer Lau, Department of Public Welfare