

#14-506-18

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**Lau, Jennifer**

**From:** Pam DeGeorge [pamdegeorge@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2006 12:55 PM  
**To:** JLau@state.pa.us  
**Cc:** Janet Stotland; nancy hubley; dlp.pgh@dlp-pa.org  
**Subject:** formal comments on DPW's Proposed Rulemaking # 14-506

2006 JUL -5 AM 8:48

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear. Ms. Lau:

I am writing to support the comments from the Education Law Center and Disabilities Law Project regarding DPW's proposed rulemaking regarding 55 Pa. Code Chapters 3270, 3280, 3290, and 3300 having to do with child care facilities.

I am the parent of twin girls who just turned 15 who both have Down syndrome. Finding a child care facility that was willing to accept the girls was a very difficult task for our family 15 years ago and one that I would hope no other family would have to encounter.

Having children with special needs can make parents feel as though their children are burdens to society if they have any needs that are different from typical children. I would hope that childcare facilities would be open and nurturing to all children, but this simply isn't always the case.

We recently had a negative experience with a camp that was actually a camp for people with special needs. There is a lot of misconceptions regarding people with special needs and the ability to deal with children who may learn and understand differently.

I applaud DPW for ensuring that children with special needs will be able to have an opportunity to thrive in childcare facilities like my daughters were eventually able to do. I should say that even though we were able to find a facility willing to provide care to my daughters, there were about 12 other facilities that were not willing. Once the girls were accepted to the facility, any issue that came up became a big problem and we were threatened on more than one occasion that the girls may not be permitted back. Can you imagine what this could do to a young child's self esteem?

Please support the Education Law Centers comments in this endeavor.

Thank you,

Pamela DeGeorge  
724-864-9135

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OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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