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**DELAWARE COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Child Care Information Services (CCIS)**  
**20 SOUTH 69TH STREET**  
**UPPER DARBY, PENNSYLVANIA 19082**  
**1-800-831-3117**  
**Fax: 610-713-2189**

October 17, 2006

TO: IRRC

Please accept this letter of support for passage of Chapter 168 which supports unification of the child care program.

Unification of the child care program will help families access child care subsidies and resource and referral assistance with a consistent plan. The CCIS programs are prepared with the information and resources to help clients find and use quality child care, whether at certified sites or with relatives or neighbors. The benefits to the child and his/her family include consistent care for the child so the parent can (stay employed) with the peace of mind that the child is enrolled in a quality child care facility with little cost to the parent. Parents will still have the choice of providers, but they can make that choice based on the information and resources CCIS can offer.

Child care costs are a deterrent to many of our clients who are making minimal wages. Parents want to work and take pride in their employment growth. It is economically unfeasible for parents making wages under 235% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines to maintain employment, housing, transportation, food, and all the other expenses needed to take care of a family.

At the CCIS all families, including TANF/Food Stamps/General Assistance clients, will get the same quality of service and resources that TANF families get now when they are no longer eligible for TANF benefits. CCIS will be able to pay providers from the time the client begins employment/training. Currently, these clients are often using child care arrangements that are temporary, tenuous, and inconsistent. Providers will be held to certain standards by signing the Provider Agreement. Payments will be consistent and on a schedule and providers will not need to rely on the parent to pay them. The rates of payment, the co-payments, the conditions of using subsidized child care will be the same for all clients and for all providers. There should not be gaps in service for clients. They will start out with the CCIS program and continue with CCIS when TANF/FS/GA ends. The children will experience a higher quality of early childhood experience because the CCIS staff will have the opportunity to counsel parents about choosing quality child care at the beginning of the parent's employment career. Parent participation in employment will be more consistent. Unification of the child care programs will therefore be beneficial to both generations of users, the parents and the children.

Please accept this letter of support for Chapter 168.

Sincerely,

*Ellen Brenner*

Ellen Brenner  
CCIS Administrator, Delaware County

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