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October 19, 2006

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

SUBJECT: **Regulation #14-505 (#2549)**

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2006 OCT 26 AM 9:33  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

This letter is written in support of Regulation #14-505 (#2549) regarding allowing the Department of Public Welfare to delegate authority to provide TANF, FS and GA child care, requires a vendor pay system to pay providers rather than parents, and align child care policies consistent with those CCIS agencies currently follow.

We live in a time where two things are abundantly clear to most of us.

First, families still struggle to make ends meet and can get easily overwhelmed as they seem to move from one crisis to the next, seeking help through a variety of programs. The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) provides most effective helps for these families in the form of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps and General Assistance. DPW caseworkers in the local County Assistance Offices (CAO) are strained as they serve the needs of their client families through these programs. Through the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies across Pennsylvania, DPW has organized a highly efficient agency system where families can currently access information on the child care subsidy program and receive education on the importance of quality child care given in safe environments. Through one office they receive specialized, professional guidance in how to select and pay for their child care needs as they become more self-sufficient. They can apply for subsidy assistance once their CAO benefits expire, receive fast, efficient administration of their child care needs, and work with staff who are well-trained in administering their regulations. This regulation would direct each CCIS to operate as each county's child care specialists, and give families the peace of mind in knowing that their needs are being met through caseworkers with one specialized area of expertise. This regulations will eliminate the additional confusion faced by families of currently operating under TWO sets of regulations....."This is what I need to know/do when my cash is OPEN, and these are the DIFFERENT rules I have to follow when my cash CLOSES"! One streamlined system can only help families feel more confident.

an affiliate agency



Secondly, by supporting this regulations directive to establish a unified vendor pay system, you will be recognizing the hard work and continuing dedication of those child care workers who have entered the child care field, not just as a job, but as a *profession*. Many providers are working diligently to improve the stability, quality and safety of their programs. This vendor pay system will assure that payment for the services they provide is administered quickly, efficiently and accurately with detailed monitoring by CCIS agencies, who already provide this service through a system with a proven track record.

I strongly encourage you to stand by these families and child care professionals by supporting Regulation No. 14-505 (#2549).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Kosarek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathy Kosarek, Director  
Child Care Information Services  
Of Crawford County