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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 DEC 11 PM 2:49

RECEIVED

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 parent and providers, and unnecessary duplication of administrative functions. Under this change, 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 good for children and families because:

1. Families and children will benefit from having one community agency with expertise in child care to handle the entire subsidized child care program.
2. Over 340,000 children, and their families, will benefit from updated health and safety guidelines in all types of child care settings.

The 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 religions 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 regulations.
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,

PTCI
1265 B.W. Laurel Blvd
Pottsville Pa
17901

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