



The Arc

Pennsylvania
SYSTEMS ADVOCACY • GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Suite 8 – Executive House
101 South Second Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
(717) 234-2621 ♦ 234-7615 (fax)
www.thearcpa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

M.J. Bartelmay - *Mercer*
President
Paul Conway - *Montgomery*
1st Vice President
Jeanne Downey - *Erie*
2nd Vice President
Nancy Richey - *York*
Secretary
Christopher Gorton - *Dauphin*
Treasurer
Karen Grady - *Lehigh*
John Angelo - *Indiana*
Matthew Albert - *Berks*
Paul Stengle - *Montgomery*
Pat Chesko - *Chester*
William Burke - *Lackawanna*
Betsy Snyder - *Montgomery*
Dennis Kidney - *Clarion*
Michelle McCollin - *Butler*
Tom Perry - *York*
Ken Oakes - *Philadelphia*
Nancy Murray - *Allegheny*
Jean Searle - *Philadelphia*
Janet Albert-Herman - *Berks*

Stephen H. Surovic
Executive Director

The Arc of Pennsylvania is affiliated with The Arc of the United States and 36 local chapters of The Arc across PA.



May 12, 2008

Mr. Kim Kauffman
Executive Director
PA Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17126-0333

#2618

RECEIVED

2008 MAY 14 AM 9:07

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Kauffman,

The Arc of Pennsylvania has been a strong proponent of the open forum of roundtables and public comment opportunities and applauds the efforts to reform the Pa. Code 22-Chapter 14 regulations. The Arc of PA has a 59 year history in advocating for the rights of citizens with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are especially proud of our efforts in the educational right of children with disabilities, through our leadership in the PARC Consent and Gaskins Settlement.

The Arc testified before the State Board of Education numerous times and was active in a coalition of organizations- VALUE, that pushed for many of the proposed reforms. We are pleased with many of the reforms, especially the addition of specific language, that references *Oberti* on least restrictive environment that will now clarify in the regulations how inclusion is to be applied to all children in meeting their educational needs. We were strong advocates for the reforms made to the Behavior Support section- 14.133- that eliminates the use of prone restraints, as well as the emphasis on the use of positive supports and interventions. This will promote and foster greater protection from abuse and protect the physical, as well as emotional safety of all of Pennsylvania's children. Although not all of The Arc of PA's suggestions were accepted, we appreciate that our suggestions were heard and valued throughout the process.

The Arc of Pennsylvania and the local chapters of The Arc work in partnership every day to carry out our mission- to work to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities in every community.

We encourage the Commission to accept the final form for 22 PA Code Chapter 14, Special Education Services and Programs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues and to have played a contributing role in the development of these significant reforms to Chapter 14, that is most important to the children and families for whom we advocate.

Sincerely,

Pam Klipa
Public Policy and Advocacy Specialist
The Arc of Pennsylvania
101 South Second Street, Suite 8
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

**Advocacy & resources for citizens with
cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities**