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PATRICK J. HARKINS, MEMBER
1ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

125 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202001
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2001
PHONE: (717) 787-7406
FAX: (717) 780-4775

460 EAST 26TH STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16504
PHONE: (814) 459-1949
FAX: (814) 871-4854



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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November 12, 2009

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli;

Please accept this letter as my support for Regulation 16A-4816 as proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors.

The State Board of Funeral Directors has held public hearings the past four years to address the issues raised in the federal court case Walker v. Flitton (2005), prior to promulgation of Regulation 16A-4816.

The State Board has carefully written this regulation to address the issues in the Walker case, while staying in compliance with the Funeral Directors Law, which prohibits the offer to sell or selling of preneed arrangements by unlicensed individuals.

Furthermore, this regulation addresses the need in the profession to protect consumers, while preserving the integrity of the funeral director's license. It also provides a solid safeguard to the public concerning their preneed arrangements.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Harkins
State Representative 1st District

PJH/las