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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Kendra Stea
Associate Director of Training
Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc.
3315-H North 124th Street
Brookfield, WI 53005

January 7, 2008

Dr. Linda O. Rhen,
Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Dr. Rhen,

The Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc. (CPI) has followed with great interest the proposed amendments to Title 22, Chapter 711 of the Pennsylvania Code. On behalf of more than 20,000 active members of the International Association of *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*® Certified Instructors and CPI, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. For the past 26 years, CPI has been active in training educators and other human service professionals in the skills necessary to manage a crisis situation and to physically intervene as safely as possible when required. Because of our background in this area, CPI would like to comment specifically on section 711.46: Behavior Support.

We would like to particularly address the ban on face down prone restraints (with the exception of allowing a prone restraint when determined necessary by a physician and documented in a student's current IEP). Prone, face down positions are very dangerous, and we commend you for proposing to prohibit this technique. However, on occasion, an individual being restrained may fall or drop to the floor, or may be injuring him/herself on the floor. If the person is not a danger to self or others, CPI recommends that the restraint be disengaged. There may be times when a floor restraint cannot be disengaged without risking injury to the individual, staff, or others. CPI believes it is important to address this situation within the context of the ban on prone restraints in this amendment. We recommend adopting wording similar to the Michigan State Board of Education's document, *Supporting Student Behavior: Standards for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint*. Michigan's standards include the following statement: "School personnel who find themselves involved in the use of a prone restraint as the result of responding to an emergency must take immediate steps to end the prone restraint."

We feel that addressing the question directly in the regulation will clear up some confusion regarding what staff should do if a student on the floor is a danger to self or others and it is not safe to disengage from a restraint. CPI has already received questions from Pennsylvania educators regarding how to handle a student that drops to the floor during a restraint should the proposed wording be adopted.



Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the important proposed amendments to Title 22, Chapter 711 of the Pennsylvania Code. CPI appreciates and applauds your efforts to advance the quality of care for students in Pennsylvania schools. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-800-558-8976 if we may provide any additional information or assist in helping local school organizations implement these regulations.

Sincerely,



Kendra Stea
Associate Director of Training
Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc.

About CPI: Since 1980, CPI has been training professionals to safely manage disruptive, assaultive, and violent behavior. To date, more than five million individuals worldwide have participated in CPI's training programs that utilize valuable techniques for helping organizations maintain a culture of safety and respect.