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*House of Representatives*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

*Robert*  
18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
PENNSYLVANIA ATHLETIC  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

January 8, 2008

Janice Staloski, Director  
Bureau of Community Program Licensure  
and Certification  
Department of Health  
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Dear Janice Staloski,

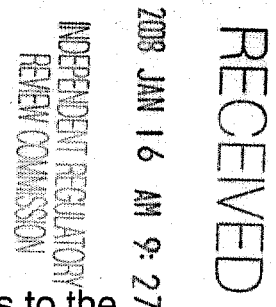
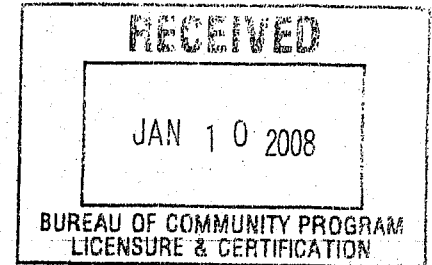
Once again, I am writing to you to express my strong objections to the Department of Health's proposed regulations regarding confidentiality of drug and alcohol addiction treatment records and personal information. (Department of Health, Proposed Regulation 10-186)

The new proposed regulations, unfortunately, are no better than the original draft circulated back in February 2007. While the first version rescinded 4 PA Code Section 255.5(b) regarding confidentiality protections, this proposal accomplishes the same by replacing the state rules with the ambiguous federal regulations.

Both throw open the doors to exposure of ever more personal and intrusive information.

These changes are entirely unnecessary. For payers, Pennsylvania's Act 106 of 1989 already defines what is necessary before an insured can obtain coverage for addiction treatment and the Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria and the Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria Summary Sheet specify the data to be provided for medical necessity reviews in HealthChoices/Medicaid and for others.

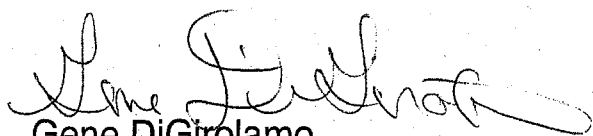
Over the years, I've been forced to learn a lot about this problem and how hard it is on the sick person and family alike. It has taken me many years – and the recovery of my son – to be able to talk about the problem of my own family.



People with untreated drug and alcohol problems are often embarrassed and stay out of treatment for far too long as it is.

Let's not make this situation worse. Let's hold the line on privacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene DiGirolamo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gene DiGirolamo  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: PA Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
House Health and Human Services Committee