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MIKE FOLMER  
STATE SENATOR

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL



Senate of Pennsylvania  
48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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BUREAU OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM  
LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

2654

January 14, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Staloski:

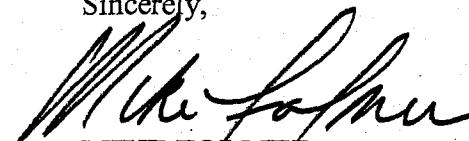
I am writing to vociferously **oppose** the PA Department of Health's proposed amendments to 4 Pa. Code Ch. 255.5(b) (Confidentiality of patient records and information).

These proposed changes unnecessarily diminish the precious privacy rights of patients enrolled in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

The existing regulations adequately protect patients' privacy while concomitantly allowing for the dissemination of personal information sufficient for such matters as the arbitration of health insurance claims and the adjudication of custody disputes.

I see no justifiable reason for modifying these regulations. Doing so serves only to harm patients by revealing about them information which is highly sensitive and thus potentially stigmatizing.

Sincerely,

  
MIKE FOLMER

MF:js:nb

cc: Kim Kaufman - IRRC  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
House Health and Human Services Committee

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