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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

#2654

March 19, 2008

18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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CHAIRMAN
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
PENNSYLVANIA ATHLETIC
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Secretary Calvin Johnson, M.D.
Department of Health
Room 802, Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Dr. Johnson,

I am writing to you because of my concerns regarding Safe and Sound and Philadelphia's \$8 million effort to establish a computer database of information between most of the branches of the city's health and human services and criminal justice system.

Reportedly, this database is to include names, identifying information and other information of people regarding mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, HIV status, etc. Some of the city agencies to be included in this electronic database:

Office of Supportive Housing
Department of Human Services
Community Behavioral Health
Office of Mental Health
Office of Mental Retardation Services
Coordinating Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Managing Director's Office, Social Services
Department of Public Health
Mayor's Office of Community Services
Philadelphia Prison System

Please advise me. Is Safe and Sound and Philadelphia's computer database in compliance with Federal and state regulations regarding confidentiality of addiction treatment records? Does its current database contain information that complies with these Federal and state rules or is it in violation?

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

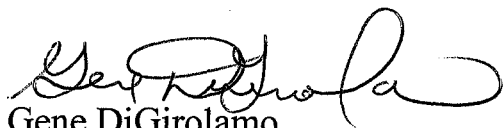
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What steps has the Department of Health taken to end the violations of the Federal and state drug and alcohol confidentiality?

In the context of the Department of Health's proposed regulations that will weaken state confidentiality protections of drug and alcohol addiction treatment records – I am extremely alarmed.

Sincerely,



Gene DiGirolamo
State Representative
18th Legislative District

Cc: Representative Frank Oliver, Majority Chairman
Representative George Kenney, Minority Chairman
House Health and Human Services Committee
Senator Edwin Erickson, Majority Chairman
Senator Vincent Hughes, Minority Chairman
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Independent Regulatory Review Commission