

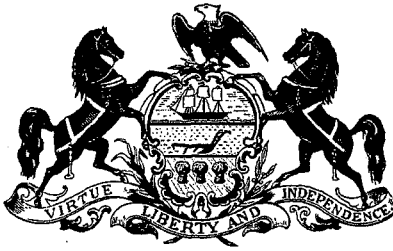
**SCOTT A. PETRI, MEMBER**

178<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
April 14, 2008

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#2654.

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

RECEIVED  
2008 APR 17 AM  
9:29 AM  
INDEPENDENT REG  
REVIEW COMM.

Re: Opposition to PA Department of Health's Proposed Regulation 10-186

Dear Ms. Staloski:

I write today to express my strong opposition to the Department of Health's proposed Regulation 10-186, regarding the confidentiality of drug and alcohol addiction treatment records and personal information.

I believe that the right to privacy in treatment and patient confidentiality are paramount. Any changes to current regulations in this regard can have only adverse consequences for patients in treatment and their families. Individuals suffering from addiction often put off treatment. The proposed regulations are likely to diminish the likelihood that individuals will seek appropriate treatment.

4 PA Code Section 255.5 (b), as currently written, insurers patient confidentiality. This essential right to privacy should not be compromised. Proposed Regulation 10-186 is detrimental to the efficacy and successful outcome in the treatment of addiction. These changes are unnecessary and unwarranted.

Groups opposed include the PA Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse to the PA Department of Health, as well the three leading statewide drug and alcohol organizations; the PA Recovery Organizations Alliance, the PA Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators, and the Drug and Alcohol Service

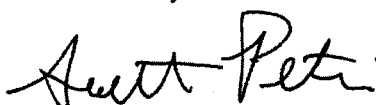
Janis Staloski  
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Providers Organization of Pennsylvania, to vehemently oppose Proposed Regulation 10-186 being promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

In losing, I ask you to consider the very real and serious ramifications of Proposed Regulation 10-186, and maintain the privacy and protection provided by 4 PA Code Section 255.5 (b). We must protect a patient's right to privacy and not make the decision to seek treatment harder than it already is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



SCOTT PETRI  
State Representative  
178<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

SP:ams

cc The Honorable Gene DiGirolamo  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission