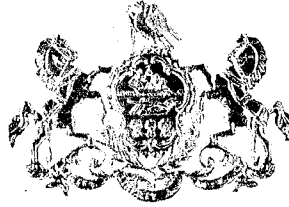


4TH DISTRICT
LEANNA M. WASHINGTON

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COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH, DEMOCRATIC CHAIR
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
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VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
POLICY
TRANSPORTATION

H 2654

Senate of Pennsylvania

RECEIVED

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

APR 24 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Janet Staloski
Director
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
132 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17104

8:57 AM

**RE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROPOSED REGULATION NO. 10-186
CONFIDENTIALITY OF D&A TREATMENT RECORDS**

Dear Ms. Staloski:

After carefully reviewing the above-referenced proposed regulation number 10-186 with regard to the confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records, I am compelled to write and share with you my opposition to this unnecessary change.

As a former drug and alcohol treatment practitioner, I can attest to the often difficult process of gaining the trust of those who are seeking treatment for the diseases of drug and/or alcohol addiction. I am most concerned that with a "loosening", if you will, of the confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records, that many who seek treatment will be less than forthcoming in providing information that is absolutely essential to provide them with the most complete recovery possible.

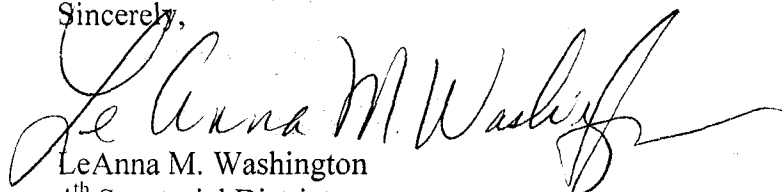
Additionally, I believe that payers are currently receiving more than enough information to be able to make payment determinations for services rendered by treating facilities. The Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria and the rules contained in 4 PA Code 255.5 are more than adequate.

(Continued)

Ms. Janet Staloski
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
Page Two (2)

I ask that this unacceptable, proposed regulation be withdrawn for the good of the citizens of Pennsylvania who have sought treatment for drug and alcohol addiction.

Sincerely,



LeAnna M. Washington
4th Senatorial District
Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties

cc: The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Secretary Estelle Richman
Secretary Calvin Johnson, M.D.
The Honorable Vincent Hughes
The Honorable Louise Williams Bishop

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120