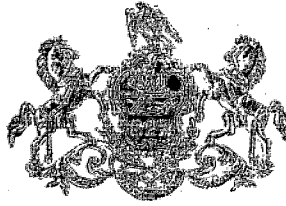


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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**2654**

May 20, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Staloski:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the current 10-186 regulations that the Department intends to put in place. This regulation would significantly impact the existing confidentiality drug and alcohol treatment records and personal information.

The expanded access that insurer and other third party payers would give them extensive access to patient information that they did not need before this point in time. The significance of confidentiality for non-medical patient records is detailed in recent comments by the Pennsylvania Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators who are actively involved in the administration and clinical aspects of drug and alcohol funds that are distributed throughout the state. They are diametrically opposed to these proposed regulations

Additionally, I assume there is good reason why the Department failed to seek the advice and counsel of the Pennsylvania Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, as found in law?

The over-whelming concerns of the providers of drug and alcohol programs along with regulators in the drug and alcohol field clearly indicate that these regulations 10-186 (37Pa.B.6529) are not in the best interest of drug and alcohol patients. Those individuals who are most vulnerable on their path of treatment and are willing to shake the addiction, must face another road block with these additional regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

  
**VINCENT J. FUMO**  
State Senator

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