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Senate of Pennsylvania

January 17, 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:

This letter is written to express opposition to the Department of Health's Proposed Regulation No. 10-186 regarding confidentiality of drug and alcohol addiction treatment patient records and information.

I am the prime sponsor of Act 53 of 1997 which grants parents the authority to be involved in the drug and alcohol treatment decisions of their minor children. The current regulation allows for protection of privacy to these families seeking help for their children and other loved ones. Act 106 of 1989 clearly defines how treatment for addiction is to be accessed which has been upheld by the Commonwealth Court. This decision is now under appeal by the insurers to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. This matter should be resolved in court and not through regulatory process. It appears to be a calculated attempt to circumvent the court process.

Individuals seeking treatment want to do so in private manner. The new regulation does not allow this to happen. Again, I strongly oppose the Department of Health's proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Vance
Senator, 31st District

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