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#2654

July 2, 2008

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

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 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Staloski:

I am writing to express my strong objections to the Department of Health's proposed regulations regarding confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records and personal information. (Proposed Regulation 10-186)

The new proposals are unfortunately no better than that circulated in February 2007. While the first version rescinded 4 PA Code Section 255.5 (b) regarding confidentiality protections, this proposal accomplishes the same by replacing the state rules with the ambiguous Federal regulations. Both throw open the door to exposure of ever more personal and intrusive information.

People with untreated drug and alcohol problems are often embarrassed and stay out of treatment for far too long as it is. Let's not make this situation worse. Let's hold the line on privacy.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. O'BRIEN
 Member 175th District