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Senate of Pennsylvania

September 22, 2008

The Honorable Dominic Pileggi
Majority Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania
350 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Pileggi:

Last June, I sent correspondence to your office concerning the Department of Health's proposed regulation No. 10-186 that will weaken state confidentiality protections of personal information of drug and alcohol addiction treatment records. I am pleased that many Senators joined in opposition to this regulation.

As you know, the letter asked the Department of Health to withdraw the proposed regulation. To date, they have failed to do so.

Astonishingly, because of the lack of support, the Department of Public Welfare began soliciting community drug and alcohol, mental health and other treatment programs to sign on to a letter written by the Department to support the proposed regulation. In effect, they have coerced and strong-armed these providers using this tactic. As result of this pressure, many of the organizations that have signed on are not addiction treatment facilities, provide no treatment services or they would not be affected by this rule.

Overwhelmingly, drug and alcohol organizations, legal associations and treatment facilities have voiced their opposition because the confidentiality rules and information requirements sought by both Departments are already well established in law and regulation of the Commonwealth and because the proposed rules will weaken state protections of confidential, personal information.

For your review, I have also attached a copy of the list who oppose the proposed regulation. The list speaks for itself.

If you have not already done so, I hope you will add your voice in opposition to Regulation No. 10-186 that will weaken confidentiality protections already in place.

Sincerely,

Jim Rhoades
JAMES J. RHOADES
State Senator

Attachment(s)

pc: Rep. Gene DiGirolamo
Kim Kaufman, IRRC

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