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January 7, 2008

Janice A Staloski
Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification
02 Kline Plaza, Suite A
Harrisburg, Pa 17104

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2008 JAN 23 AM 9:30

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JAN 10 2008

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY PROGRAM
LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

Dear Janice Staloski:

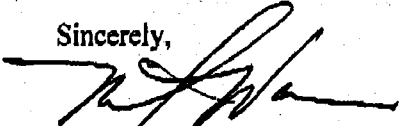
"I took a leave of absence and it's really no ones business where I am. If you could please find me a treatment facility located outside of Harrisburg, Pa. it would be very much appreciated. I can't go outside yet because people might know me, so I'll stay inside this facility a little longer. Don't you dare tell anyone I am here or why? You assured me that my speaking to you, the group, or anyone here would be confidential and between you and me; even after I leave this facility". Ms Staloski, these are just a few of the demands that were granted to me as a result of the current Confidentiality Regulations in place. How dare we even consider proposing any changes that would relax the measures of maintaining ones confidentiality as it relates to addiction and the recovery process in the state of Pennsylvania or even in the united states.

Taking a risk and asking for help when suffering from an addiction was one of the bravest yet feared things I've ever done in my life. My name is Michael Warren and I am an addict who used for over 30 years before conceding to the fact that I am an addict. Because I was told by another recovering addict to take a risk, dial a number, and expose my problem, I was allowed to receive help from a treatment provider. I didn't know who this person was or where they lived; all I know is I felt like they cared. They told me that everything I said would be in the strictest of confidence and that who I am and where I was from was not as important as to how they could help me with my problem. This was the only important thing in my life when I was looking for help.

My life has changed because of the risk I took believing in the services currently offered by 4 PA Code, Section 255.5, the state confidentiality regulations. After finding out that the availability of information concerning ones health, medical history, criminal background, and other individual problems as it relates to their addiction and co-dependencies would be expanded because a proposed amendment to this section is being introduced to the legislature, it is mandated that I write to you to oppose such a thing from happening to this State Regulation. The individual inside of me is all I had left at the end of my road. I didn't want to believe I had disgraced myself, family, friends, and any other life connections, much less disclose them to the rest of the world. However, the services I received gave me a sense of comfort that allowed me to begin trusting the recovery process and eventually help to relieve some burdens of shame and guilt. There is no way I would have began to do this impossible task without feeling assured that my life would remain a private affair between me and who I chose to participate.

Ms. Staloski, the comfort to make a call, admit a problem, and ask for help without disclosing all of the destruction of our past is all we may need to find the courage to ask for help. Please do not allow this proposed amendment to 4 PA Code, Section 255.5, the state confidentiality regulations be introduced to legislation and eventually passed. It just cannot happen because lives are at stake. It is your duty to make sure that it doesn't happen.

Sincerely,



Michael Warren
Taxpayer and Registered Voter