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James H. Andrews, LCSW, BCD
President

Jenna Mehnert, MSW
Executive Director

April 10, 2008

Kim Kauffman, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Kauffman:

The National Association of Social Workers, PA Chapter (NASW-PA) recently commented on the proposed regulation #10-186; Confidentiality of Patient Records and Information issued by the Department of Health. NASW-PA would like to change its position given the feedback we have received from our members on these regulations.

In a letter to Ms. Janice Staloski dated February 15, 2008, NASW-PA supported the changes made to the regulations in 4 Pa Code, Section 255.5. NASW-PA would like to be on record with the Department of Health and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission that NASW-PA is neutral about the proposed amendments. After the letter was posted on the IRRC website, NASW-PA has received feedback from our member social workers both in support and opposed to the proposed changes. As NASW-PA represents a diverse group of social workers working in drug and alcohol settings, mental health settings and managed care settings, our members are strongly divided on the benefits proposed by the confidentiality changes to the above mentioned regulations.

NASW-PA appreciates the opportunity to have input in the regulatory review process as these regulations are considered.

Sincerely,

Jamie Buchenauer

Jamie Buchenauer,
Director of Government and Public Relations