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#2712

October 7, 2008

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

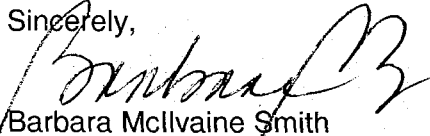
I am writing to let you know that I cannot support the proposed Assisted Living Regulations as they stand. I believe that more must be done to protect our vulnerable citizens and their families, who will be utilizing assisted living facilities.

I strongly urge you to add the following requirements to the Assisted Living Regulations. Without the inclusion of these additional protective measures, I believe that there will be grave consequences.

- Fundamental consumer protections that all Assisted Living residents and applicants deserve,
- Require consumers to have their needs assessed and have a full picture of what the facility can or cannot do to meet the consumers' specific assessed needs, along with associated costs prior to moving into the facility and signing a contract,
- Mandate that all direct care staff complete a minimum number of training hours and be trained in first aid and CPR,
- Require all facilities (including buildings that exist as of the day the regulations take effect) to meet the best available standards or practices for fire safety and accessibility,
- Require enough direct care staff to ensure that at least 2 hours of care can be delivered to each resident each day but that the actual amount of direct care staffing to be based on the individual needs of the resident,
- Provide consumers with a right and a process to challenge a facility's decision to evict residents,
- Assure the resident has a right to continue to use or otherwise choose their own healthcare providers.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these regulations. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these measures. I believe that we must do all that we can to provide assisted living consumers and their families with regulations that will ensure that they receive the very best care available.

Sincerely,


Barbara McIlvaine Smith
State Representative
156th District

BMS/kdw



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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