

2712

14-514

L-15

Mr. Daniel Merrick, Ph.D.
858 Route 446
Smethport, PA 16749-5536

RECEIVED

August 20, 2008

2008 AUG 29 PM 3:46

Gail Weidman, Office of Long-Term Care Living,
Reference Regulation No. 14-514 & Quality Home Care Commission (QHCC),
Department of Public Welfare
333 Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RECEIVED
08 AUG 26 PM 11:30
DIV OF LTC PGMS
REFER TO _____

Dear Gail Weidman:

I am greatly concerned about the proposed changes to the present home health care system in Pennsylvania. My son has Duchennes' Muscular Dystrophy and my wife cares for him under the present system at our home. She is paid through CRI, Inc., a local company that administers the state funded program in our area. The Quality Home Care Commission (QHCC) and its proposed changes to the present system are unethical and unwanted by those who receive home healthcare.

If the changes are made to the present system, my wife would be required to surrender a portion of her earnings to a union or be forced to allow a stranger to come into our home to care for our child. This is not acceptable in that Unions are against our faith and political convictions. My wife uses a large portion of her earnings to provide nutritional supplements for my son which are denied by Medicare and Medicaid. I have piles over two inches high of denials from the Department of Public Welfare along with letters of Medical Necessity from doctors. This proposed legislation would further burden our budget by taking union dues from my wife's earnings.

We live in a rural area where long term care is not accessible outside the present arrangement; and we do not have any need for a union nor do we want our earnings to go to any organized labor organization that exists behind the legal shroud hiding the facts that our money will be extorted into political contributions by force. The FBI has a term for this: Extortion!

In 2000, my father was placed in a respite care for 4 short days at a local nursing home. When we went to pick him up, he had a decubitus (bed sore) that was not there when we left him. As a result, my father, a World War II veteran, died later that year from a resulting infection.

I will not allow my son to go to a nursing home or be forced into care that is not in his best interest. The proposed unionized care will no doubt contribute a large amount of the "dues" to political parties that favor the liberal views of Ed Rendell and his party. This appears to me to be the same 'good ole boy' buddy favor politics of the past. Like when the press got yelled at by Ed for questioning his appointments to the gaming commission.

Prior to the present arrangement we now have with CRI, we had a state administered program with outside aids and nurses. These people came into our home and stole from us and neglected my sons care during their duty. We had problems such as long distance phone bills from calls that the help made on our phone and other service charges including incidents of fraudulent use of our credit.

We will not use any system that allows this type of exposure of our reputation, safety, finances and privacy again.

The present system with Community Resources For Independence, Inc. is the best consumer home health care system to meet the needs of our family and provide the most effective care for my son. Should you disregard our concerns in this matter we will do all that we can to stop this legislation and protest its implementation including legal action and media appearances.

Should my wife loose her income from the present program as a result of the legislation, we would have no choice but to move from Pennsylvania to a more favorable state that would allow the best care for our son. As a disabled veteran myself, I consider this legislation a disgusting attempt to fix what isn't broken for the benefits of political friends and big money unions.

If the goal is to steal our tax dollars and earnings to feather the nest of business associates and union friends, please do not do it at the expense of defenseless disabled persons and their families. Please leave us poor handicapped country folks alone. We moved out of the cities to get away from organized crime that hides behind legislative extortion and mafia run city life of bribes and payoffs for special interest friends.

When I was in college before I joined the Army, I got a job for a security company as a night guard. When I got my first check, I noticed a extra deduction for some association which I had not authorized. Upon inquiry with my boss, he explained that to keep the warehouse from being hit by the mafias, we all chip in protection money. I filed a complaint to the federal wage and hour division of the US Government. As a result, a lot of people went to jail. So be aware that communist gangster unions and their extortion tactics do not scare me. I hate extortionists who profit at the expense of honest tax paying citizens by disguising their theft with such things as unions. I have watched my whole life while the unions stole money from poor workers and hit the headlines as their leaders were murdered by their own organized crime buddies. Tell me where is Hoffa? Who killed Danny Green? Name a union that has not been tied to some sort of organized crime or communistic ideals or redistribution wealth to political power bosses?

Who is Ed helping with this legislation and why?

What do all these people have in common.....? Unions! This legislation will do nothing for the home bound handicapped. It will give the unions a large share of tax dollars through an indirect forced contribution at the expense of the working poor in Pennsylvania, and that is a crime.

That is why I am asking you to fight against stealing our money and defeat this legislation that will result in taking money and needed care away from people like my son.

Sincerely,

Daniel Merrick, Ph.D.

PS: My family and I would be glad to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Copies Furnished:

The Honorable George W. Bush

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

The Honorable Martin T. Causer

The Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati

The Honorable John E. Peterson

The Honorable Robert P. Casey

The Honorable Arlen Specter

Estelle Richman, Secretary, Department of Public Welfare

Mark Hollenbeck, Attorney At Law

August 25, 2008

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am AGAINST the proposed Quality Home Care Commission (QHCC) and similar changes. I am a consumer of the Home and Community-Based Services that would be affected and I am concerned about the impact it will have on me and others who depend on these programs.

It is very important to me to be the employer of my direct care workers. This empowers me to have control over my services. The QHCC and its union proposal would eliminate my role as the consumer-employer which is a nationally known model of attendant care and used in Pennsylvania for many years. We fought over 20 years ago for the right to be the employers of our attendants when the Attendant Care Law was passed in 1986.

I am upset that the QHCC and its union would take away my ability to choose who I hire and decide their work schedules. I do not need a QHCC, as I am the best judge of the quality of my attendant's work – my attendants already provide me with quality care without a QHCC. We, consumer-employees, do not need a Commission or a union between us and our employees.


The QHCC and similar plans would eliminate my choice of financial support service providers. As it stands now, if I am not receiving good support from my fiscal employer agent that helps me with payroll, taxation and other program issues, I can easily choose another provider who will. The QHCC would be a monopoly - the only game in town with no incentive to provide me with good efficient services.

I am also upset with the way the QHCC idea was developed without any input from the consumers of these services. We depend upon our attendants in order to maintain our independence and freedom.

There are other ways to solve the problems that the QHCC claims exist without disrupting the consumer's right to employ their attendants and choose their provider. I ask you to increase the funding for the Home and Community-Based Services including the Attendant Care Program; the Waiver programs; the Aging programs and to give the workers in these programs healthcare through the adultBasic plan.

Please take my concerns seriously and **STOP the QHCC** and similar changes now.

Thank you,


Consumer

August 25, 2008

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am AGAINST the proposed Quality Home Care Commission (QHCC) and similar changes. I am very concerned about the impact it will have on me my job.

I am a direct care worker employed by a consumer of the home and community based programs that the QHCC would affect. I have a good working relationship with my consumer but this Commission would change who would be my employer. I am concerned that it would take away my ability to deal directly with my consumer on things such as my schedule and would impose additional work rules between my consumer and me. This Commission is unacceptable to me – I want to remain employed by the consumer that I provide care.

I am also upset that the QHCC was developed without any input from workers like me who provide these services and depend on these jobs. For example, the QHCC assumes that workers like me are poorly trained and provide poor care. I like this work and believe I already provide quality care. The QHCC includes a mandatory union without asking whether I even want to join a union and pay union dues. It also requires me to go through a registry to work in this field, but there are already plenty of ways to find work in home care.

I have heard that the QHCC plan was made without input from the consumers either – my employer's independence will be seriously affected and they didn't think it was necessary to ask for the consumer's input?

There are other ways to solve the problems that the QHCC says exist without disrupting the consumer's right to employ who they choose. I ask you to increase the funding for the Home and Community-Based Services including the Attendant Care programs; the Waiver programs; the Aging programs and to give us, the workers in these programs, healthcare through the adultBasic plan.

Please take my concerns seriously and **STOP the QHCC** and similar changes **now**.

Thank you,


Personal Care Attendant