

2784

From: Kathy Fisher [KathyFisher@pccy.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 2:41 PM
To: eerickson@pasen.gov; mhansarick@pasen.gov; hughes@pasenate.com; cduncan@pasenate.com; foliver@pahouse.net; sbennett@pahouse.net; smitchell@pahouse.net; Nia Wilson; mbaker@pahousegop.com; IRRC; Jewett, John H. shellyyanoff@pccy.org
Cc: shellyyanoff@pccy.org
Subject: Re: Final-Omitted Regs. #14-517 - Proposed Revisions to Special Allowances
Attachments: AG-LTRrefinalomitted-9-09.doc

Please see PCCY's letter below (and attached) stating our opposition to DPW's plan to revise special allowances without opportunity for public comment.

Thank you.

*Kathy Fisher
 Family Economic Security Associate
 Public Citizens for Children and Youth
 7 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., 6th Floor
 Philadelphia, PA 19103*

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RECEIVED
 2009 SEP 15 PM 4:09
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Robert A. Mulle, Esq.
 Chief Deputy Attorney General
 Office of Attorney General, Legal Review Section
 15th Floor, Strawberry Square
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 VIA FAX (717-705-7244) & FIRST CLASS MAIL

**RE: Final-Omitted Regulations #14-517
 Revisions to Special Allowance for Supportive Services Requirements**

Dear Mr. Mulle:

We understand that the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has submitted a package of regulations that would dramatically reduce the availability of special allowances to participants in welfare-to-work programs. DPW is attempting to bypass the opportunity for public comment without giving adequate reason for doing so. These regulations would have an extraordinarily harmful impact upon families that receive TANF. **We urge you to request that**

DPW withdraw these regulations and follow the usual route for proposed regulations with the opportunity for public comment.

PCCY serves as Southeastern Pennsylvania's leading child advocacy organization and works to improve the lives and life chances of the region's children. As of August, 2009, there were nearly 43, 000 families with children receiving TANF and 249,697 households receiving food stamps (SNAP) in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. Diminishing access to special allowances as DPW proposes would take away critical support these families need to successfully move forward.

Among other things, these regulations would require low-income participants to spend their own meager savings down to zero before receiving any special allowance; impose strict yearly and lifetime limits on special allowances even where families have good reasons to need additional help; and eliminate certain types of special allowances that families had previously been able to receive to help them find work.

In the current job market, these special allowances are more important than ever to help low-income Pennsylvania families obtain employment, education, and training. DPW should not be permitted to cut these allowances without giving the public the opportunity to weigh in on the effects of the cuts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly Yanoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shelly" being more prominent than the last name "Yanoff".

Shelly Yanoff
Executive Director

CC: Sen. Edwin Erickson, Majority Chair, Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Sen. Vincent Hughes, Minority Chair, Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Rep. Frank Oliver, Majority Chair, House Health & Human Services Committee
Rep. Matthew Baker, Minority Chair, House Health & Human Services Committee
Independent Regulatory Review Commission



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September 14, 2009

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Executive Director

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