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From: Carolan, Kistine [kcarolan@momobile.org]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 4:24 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: Jewett, John H.; Erickson, Edwin; mhansarick@pasen.gov; Hughes, Vincent; cduncan@pasenate.com; Oliver, Frank; sbennett@pahouse.net; smitchell@pahouse.net; Nia Wilson; mbaker@pahousegop.com; lblanchett@state.pa.us; Thall, Letty
Subject: Letter on Revisions to Special Allowances TANF Sept 2009

Should you have any questions about why this issue is important to Maternity Care Coalition and its clients, please feel free to contact directly Letty Thall (Director of Public Policy) or Kistine Carolan (Community Engagement Coordinator). We would be happy to speak with you in further detail.

Robert A. Mulle, Esq.
Chief Deputy Attorney General
Office of Attorney General, Legal Review Section
15th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

2009 SEP 21 AM 7:21
RECEIVED
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

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

Dear Mr. Mulle:

We understand that the Department of Public Welfare has recently submitted a package of regulations that would dramatically reduce the availability of special allowances to participants in welfare-to-work programs. The Department is attempting to issue these regulations without the opportunity for public comment, and without giving adequate reason for doing so. These regulations would have an extraordinarily harmful effect on our program and the clients with whom we work. We urge you to request the Department to withdraw these regulations and follow the usual route for proposed regulations with the opportunity for public comment.

Maternity Care Coalition's (MCC) mission is to *improve maternal and child health and well being through the collaborative efforts of individuals, families, providers and communities*. We achieve this mission through outreach and delivery of family support services to at risk and vulnerable pregnant and newly parenting women. MCC works regularly with TANF and food stamp recipients and thinks the public should have a chance to weigh in on these regulations.

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 this economy, these special allowances are more important than ever to help low-income Pennsylvanian families obtain employment, education, or training. The Department ought not to cut these allowances without giving the public the opportunity to weigh in on the effects of the cuts.

Sincerely yours,

JoAnne Fischer
Executive Director

Maternity Care Coalition

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