

# 2784



FRANK L. OLIVER, MEMBER  
1319 N. 29TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19121  
PHONE: (215) 684-3738  
FAX: (215) 235-4629

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-3480  
FAX: (717) 783-0684

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
AGRICULTURAL & RURAL AFFAIRS

September 14, 2009

The Honorable Estelle Richman, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
333 Health & Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Dear Secretary Richman:

We, the Chairmen of the House Health & Human Services Committee, are writing to request that the Department withdraw their submission of final-omitted regulation #14-517, Revisions to the Special Allowances for Supportive Services Requirements.

We understand the Department has already made changes that address deficiencies found in an audit of the special allowances program's verification and issuance process and, that the newly implemented requirements for documentation of need and proof of receipt of services eliminate or mitigate the potential for fraud and abuse and are consistent with existing regulations.

We believe the Department and the citizens of the Commonwealth will greatly benefit from an open review of these changes and that, because they have already been implemented, resubmitting them as proposed will not delay implementation.

The special allowances are essential to families' efforts to find work during this jobless recovery from the deepest recession we have experienced since the Great Depression; and they are also essential to the Department's effort to meet the federal TANF work participation rates. A complete and thorough review with informed public comment will assure that the regulation does not erect unnecessary barriers to work.

We do not argue whether or not the Department has the statutory authority to proceed without public comment but do ask that you see the wisdom in voluntarily agreeing to withdraw the final-omitted form in favor of the process which allows for consideration of the substantial and substantive objections of your stakeholders.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*Frank L. Oliver*

Rep. Frank L. Oliver, Chairman  
House Health & Human Services Committee

*Matthew E. Baker*

Rep. Matthew E. Baker, Chairman  
House Health & Human Services Committee