

SOUTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

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Teresa A. Kaufman Executive Director September 24, 2010

Kim Kaufman, Executive Director The Independent Regulatory Review Commission 333 Market Street, 14th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Kaufman:

This letter is in reference to the Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) proposed final regulations titled, "Revisions to the Special Allowance for Supportive Services Requirements (# 14-518). South Central Workforce Investment Board appreciates the opportunity to present our comments.

These regulations are needed to bring greater accountability to this important program while ensuring that these very important supports remain available for those who need them to be able to move from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA), and SNAP into employment.

Government in all segments is trying to increase the accountability of its programs and services. These proposed regulations bring increased integrity to areas where DPW has faced criticism for previously having had accountability deficiencies.

These regulations ensure that this program will be able to serve the greatest number of people with the limited resources available. While some may be concerned that limits on transportation and work-related expenses will cause hardship in some participants, South Central Workforce Investment Board agrees that, this concern is outweighed by the opportunity to sustain the program for additional participants. The changes do increase some program benefits for the participants, specifically the mileage rate for a private vehicle and the motor vehicle purchase amount. South Central Workforce Investment Board agrees with these increases as they more accurately reflect the costs to the program participant.

South Central Workforce Investment Board supports DPW's "Revisions to the Special Allowance for Supportive Service Requirements" proposed final-form regulations. We acknowledge these regulations seek to correct deficiencies in the current program and regulations. We also believe the changes the Department has made from the proposed rulemaking stage clearly shows their willingness to work with external stakeholders to understand and respond to their comments. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and take South Central Workforce Investment Board's letter under consideration.

Sincerely

Joseph E. Alsberry Deputy Director

JA:jmf

cc:

The Honorable Frank L. Oliver The Honorable Matthew E. Baker The Honorable Vincent J. Hughes The Honorable Patricia H. Vance Wendy Fullerton

