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2010 JUL 29 P 1:34

2854.

Amanda Dorris
Bureau of Certification Services
Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Department of Public Welfare
333 Market Street, 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

[Transmitted by e-mail to adorris@state.pa.us]

COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED REGULATION 14-519

Dear Ms. Dorris:

The REACH Alliance is the Commonwealth's leading grassroots coalition seeking to educate the public on the benefits that school choice can bring to Pennsylvania's children. The Foundation represents business, religious, civic, taxpayer, and non-profit organizations committed to educational achievement through choice. We advocate and educate the public on all school choice options which includes tuition tax credits, traditional charter schools, and cyber charter schools. REACH continues to educate Pennsylvania's citizens, the General Assembly, and the media to ensure that parents have a true choice in their children's education.

The REACH Alliance has considered the proposed rulemaking 14-519 and finds it quite deficient in attributes that would enhance the Commonwealth, its families, and its children. Among other things, the proposal:

Departs from anything resembling the traditional governmental duty of protecting citizens in matters of health and safety. Instead, this proposal invests the limited resources of the Commonwealth to push headlong into a state-controlled system of administrator and staff training focused on the Department's views of what personnel working with children can think and do as they assist parents in the raising of their children.

Would not enhance choices to parents for their children and creates impediments to allowing and encouraging alternatives to the providers of child care who follow the Department's ideology as to what is good for children. It is well established that giving real, meaningful choices is not only the American way, it also will yield better results.

Would bring conflict with many parents and historic institutions to children where the families, children, and institutions embrace a historically accepted philosophy of education and/or a religious belief system that hold views contrary to those embraced by the Department.

While this submission of comment is short, it should not be considered as trite or unimportant. The position of the Department in proposing this rulemaking demonstrates a significant flaw in thinking, not just a submission that can be remedied through editing or amending.

Sincerely,

Otto V. Banks

Otto V. Banks
Executive Director

Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)

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14-519-44

From: Otto Banks [obanks@paschoolchoice.org]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 5:33 PM
To: Dorris, Amanda K. (PW)
Subject: COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED REGULATION 14-519
Attachments: 2010 DRAFT OF SHORT REACH LETTER TO DPW

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Dear Ms. Dorris:

The attachment contains comments regarding proposed regulation 14-519.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Otto V. Banks

Executive Director

REACH Alliance & REACH Foundation

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Your Child. Your Choice. *Our Future!*