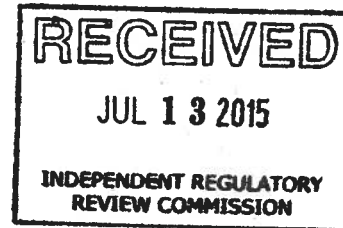


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Kathy Cooper

From: michelle kraus <mkrauspaadvocacy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 4:39 PM
To: IRRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; jney@philapark.org
Subject: Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

To:
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dennis G. Weldon, Esq.
General Counsel
Philadelphia Parking Authority
701 Market Street, Suite 5400
Philadelphia, PA 19106

James R. Ney, Director
Taxicab and Limousine Division
2415 S. Swanson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing today on behalf of Little People of America (LPA) and in support of the Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11, which would require all vehicles proposed for taxicab service after a designated date to be wheelchair accessible and comply with the wheelchair accessible regulations.

LPA is a national, nonprofit organization with over 7,000 members that provides support, advocacy, and information to people with dwarfism and their families. Our mission explicitly calls for us to improve the quality of life of people with dwarfism while celebrating with great pride their contribution to social diversity. It is with this mission in mind that we ask for the implementation of a fully accessible taxi fleet.

An estimated 3,900 of the 30,000 Americans diagnosed with a form of dwarfism rely on an assistive device, like a scooter or wheelchair, for mobility. Some of these individuals live, work, and study in or near the city of Philadelphia and have asked the organization to support this regulation because of their lack of access to reliable transportation. Transportation is the lynchpin of being able to be fully integrated into social or professional activities, which is a core component to improving one's quality of life, with or without dwarfism.

We wish to live in a world in which both disabled and nondisabled people alike are able to quickly and easily call for a cab. We believe that Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11 would make that a possibility by allowing all taxicabs to be accessible and not require a person with a disability to make a special accommodation days and sometimes weeks ahead of time.

Thus, LPA fully supports the PPA's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11.

Sincerely,

Gary Arnold
President
Little People of America

Michelle Kraus
Director of Advocacy
Little People of America

Leah Smith
Director of Public Relations
Little People of America

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