



**DISABILITY RIGHTS**  
PENNSYLVANIA

Disability Rights Pennsylvania  
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3160

**VIA EMAIL**

October 5, 2018



Fiona Wilmarth, Director of Regulatory Review  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

**RE: IRRC Regulation #3160 and DHS Regulation 14-540, HCBS and Licensing**

Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) is the organization designated by the Commonwealth under federal law to protect the rights of and advocate for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. DRP works to ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and segregation. DRP's clients include children and adults with disabilities across Pennsylvania who receive or are in need of services administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) so that they can live and work in the community.

DRP appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 6100 regulations and accompanying changes to the associated regulations. We are supportive of the changes made to clarify that family involvement should always be at the direction of the individual. This clarification is crucial to protect individuals who do not wish their families to be involved in their lives or for whom family involvement poses a substantial risk (history of abuse/neglect,

**Protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities**

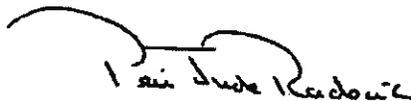
denial of rights, etc.). Individuals with intellectual disabilities should be afforded the same respect that any adult has in choosing who participates in various aspects of their life, including determining whether they choose to have family members involved. This change is a significant step forward in ensuring that rights of the individual are protected and that services are provided in a person-centered way.

DRP chooses not to comment on other parts of the regulations. We are supportive of some changes in the proposed regulations and remain concerned about some parts of the final form regulations that were not changed based on our public comments.

We want to end by acknowledging the stakeholder engagement process that ODP undertook to draft these regulations. The process included extensive stakeholder engagement over the course of years. ODP was responsive and committed to making changes throughout the process that has resulted in a much more comprehensive set of regulations than is currently in place. DRP has appreciated being part of the process and will continue to advocate for improvements to the service system for people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

We thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peri Jude Radecic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Peri Jude Radecic  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Kristin Ahrens  
Julie Mochon  
Karen Kroh