

3160

14-540

446

GENE DIGIROLAMO, MEMBER
49 EAST WING
PO BOX 202018
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2018
PHONE: (717) 783-7319
FAX: (717) 772-2414



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES
HUMAN SERVICES,
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PA ATHLETIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE,
CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT OFFICE
2424 BRISTOL ROAD
NESHAMINY VALLEY COMMONS
BENSALEM, PA 19020
PHONE: (215) 750-1017
FAX: (215) 750-1295

October 5, 2018

Secretary Teresa Miller
Department of Human Services
333 Health and Welfare Building

Dear Secretary Miller:

I'm writing today regarding concerns brought to my attention with IRRC Regulation #3160 and DHS Regulation #14-540 (Home and Community-Based Services Licensing).

It is my understanding that there are serious issues within the final regulations that reduce provider accountability and leave questionable whether adequate safety and protection for those they should safeguard is provided. It is crucial that these regulations protect the rights, health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities served by the Commonwealth.

While these regulations are on the agenda for the IRRC public meeting on October 18th, it is my understanding that the Department has the ability to withdraw the current 'final' version from the IRRC agenda, add suggested changes from stakeholders and re-submit to IRRC since there are two more meetings after October 18th that are scheduled for this year.

Vision for Equality and other organizations are requesting a temporary withdrawal of the 6100 regulations so these issues can be fully addressed to the satisfaction of the thousands of families who have family members in the system, 80% of whom are supported at home by family members.

Family members serve as the eyes and ears for their loved ones and provide oversight to ensure they are safe from abuse and neglect. Many people do not have family and the system should protect all of them. A family's opinion and voice should count as much as a provider's influence, because of the love and concern they have for the welfare of their son, daughter or family member.

I appreciate your taking the time to hear these concerns, as I expressed similar concerns with Secretary Dallas in 2016 during the proposed phase. I respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible in order to address the serious concerns raised by families across the Commonwealth. Please let me know as soon as possible when you are available to meet.

Sincerely,

Gene DiGirolamo, Majority Chairman
House Human Services Committee

cc: Kristin Ahrens, Acting Deputy Secretary
Kristin Crawford, Legislative Director

RECEIVED
2018 OCT - 9 P 1:21

RECEIVED
OCT - 5 2018
Office of
Developmental Programs