



CENTRAL OFFICE:
17 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1624
PH. 717-232-7554 FAX 717-232-2162

NORTH OFFICE:
P.O. Box 60769, Harrisburg, PA 17106-0769
PH. 717-526-1010 FAX 717-526-1020

4/20/2009

The Honorable John Gordner, Chair
Senate Labor and Industry Committee
Senate Box 203027
351 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RECEIVED

APR 20 2009

Harrisburg Office

Dear Senator Gordner:

I write on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania regarding the joint informational hearing with the Senate Aging and Youth Committee concerning consumer workforce councils. CCAP has no formal position on consumer workforce councils, although our members have expressed concerns with the use of intergovernmental agreements to establish them.

Recently, the CCAP Board of Directors discussed at great length the efforts in several counties to establish consumer workforce councils for the purpose of creating a structured workforce for home health care workers, and establishing a mechanism for those workers to negotiate salary and benefits. While CCAP strongly supports allowing counties the greatest possible flexibility to make decisions locally, board members were concerned that such agreements could bind a non-participating county to paying for or providing services and benefits that are not currently required through county revenues and resources. More importantly, the board responded with concern to reports that a trigger would be reached if three counties would sign such agreements, launching the program statewide.

There are a number of concerns with establishing this structure without legislative oversight, and the board expressed concern that other counties could be forced to adopt a similar model. The board felt that having a council in several counties and not others could create an environment for litigation relying on a promise of the same public benefits being provided consistently across the state.

After much debate, the CCAP Board adopted a motion stating that if such agreements are to be considered for local consumer workforce councils, they should be adopted legislatively and not by local ordinance. The CCAP Human Services Committee met later that same day, and a similar discussion led to an identical motion by that committee.

I hope this letter will clarify the concerns of Commissioners with regard to consumer workforce councils. I would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brinda Carroll Penyak", written over a horizontal line.

Brinda Carroll Penyak
Deputy Director

4/20/2009

The Honorable Patricia Vance, Chair
Senate Aging and Youth Committee
Senate Box 203013
351 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Vance:

I write on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania regarding the joint informational hearing with the Senate Labor and Industry Committee concerning consumer workforce councils. CCAP has no formal position on consumer workforce councils, although our members have expressed concerns with the use of intergovernmental agreements to establish them.

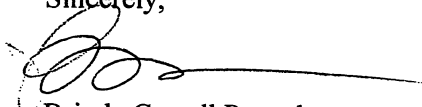
Recently, the CCAP Board of Directors discussed at great length the efforts in several counties to establish consumer workforce councils for the purpose of creating a structured workforce for home health care workers, and establishing a mechanism for those workers to negotiate salary and benefits. While CCAP strongly supports allowing counties the greatest possible flexibility to make decisions locally, board members were concerned that such agreements could bind a non-participating county to paying for or providing services and benefits that are not currently required through county revenues and resources. More importantly, the board responded with concern to reports that a trigger would be reached if three counties would sign such agreements, launching the program statewide.

There are a number of concerns with establishing this structure without legislative oversight, and the board expressed concern that other counties could be forced to adopt a similar model. The board felt that having a council in several counties and not others could create an environment for litigation relying on a promise of the same public benefits being provided consistently across the state.

After much debate, the CCAP Board adopted a motion stating that if such agreements are to be considered for local consumer workforce councils, they should be adopted legislatively and not by local ordinance. The CCAP Human Services Committee met later that same day, and a similar discussion led to an identical motion by that committee.

I hope this letter will clarify the concerns of Commissioners with regard to consumer workforce councils. I would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Brinda Carroll Penyak
Deputy Director