

# HARBORCREEK YOUTH SERVICES

5712 Iroquois Avenue, Harborcreek, PA 16421  
814-899-7664 • FAX 814-899-3075

MAR 26 2001

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
Box 96 Main Capital Bldg.  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120-6030

March 19, 2001

Dear Mr. Scrimenti

I am writing to request a change in the process by which the Commonwealth reimburses Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions. Harborcreek Youth Services receives funding as a PRRI and the lengthy delay in reimbursement results in a cash flow problem for us as a provider institution.

We are asking your support in changing the legislation that would provide reimbursements quarterly, based on the previous year's reimbursement. Please give your attention and support to this initiative.

Sincerely,



Sharon A. Kestler MS, NCC  
Administrator of Education

To: Representative Thomas Scrimenti  
Attn: Donna Ehrhart  
From: Ryan Kline, Research Analyst  
Legislative Research Office  
Date: April 27, 2001  
RE: Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions

At your request, the following is information on Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions (PRRIs). I spoke to James Buckheit, Director of School Services for the Department of Education, regarding reimbursement issues and general information in relation to these institutions.

Presently, there are 19 PRRIs, with locations in every region of the Commonwealth. Although the Commonwealth currently allocates a total of \$28 million in funding for PRRIs to school districts (through Intermediate Units) that contain them, it is ultimately each school district's responsibility to financial support the institutions--school districts must reimburse the Commonwealth. Both Basic Education and Special Education are included in a school district's responsibility for funding.

Commonwealth funding for PRRIs is based on enrollment figures and annual audits of the institutions. Approximately 25 percent of funding to PRRIs occurs in August, just prior to the beginning of an academic year, with the other 75 percent occurring in the February after an academic year is completed. This delay exists because the Commonwealth uses annual audit figures to determine appropriate funding for each academic year.

Although no legislation has been introduced to change the way these institutions are reimbursed, the House Appropriations Committee has written legislation that would reimburse them on a monthly basis. The committee forwarded the legislation, which was written by the majority's staff, on to the Governor's Budget Office for review, but has not received a favorable

*bi yearly  
quarterly reimbursement - could not Gov's office to  
See if they might want to revisit this issue*

*Follow any problems if I would propose Lega  
to try to remedy  
the issue*

response. There seems to be concern from the Governor's Budget Office that reimbursing the institutions on a monthly basis would lead to too much paperwork from both the institutions, which would be required to report their costs each month, and the Commonwealth.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 717-787-9516.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
June 15, 2001

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Ridge:

I am writing to you today with regard to Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions and, specifically, the reimbursement schedule of these institutions. Over the past few months, I have received a number of letters from constituents who have concerns in relation to the current reimbursement schedule.

As you know, approximately 25 percent of funding to these institutions occurs in August just prior to the beginning of an academic year. The other 75 percent is sent in February after an academic year is completed. This reimbursement schedule puts a financial burden on many institutions due to the fact that they must wait nine months for the reimbursement of funds. While I am aware that Commonwealth funding is based in large part on annual audits of these institutions, I believe we can establish a more adequate reimbursement schedule.

It is my understanding that approximately two years ago the House Appropriations Committee made a suggestion to reimburse the institutions every month. While I understand your budget office's concern that reimbursing the institutions on a monthly basis would lead to too much paperwork from both the Commonwealth and the institutions, which would be required to report their costs each month, I respectfully urge you to consider a compromised reimbursement schedule that would supply the institutions with 50 percent of their funding in August and 50 percent in February.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. J. Scrimenti'.

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

cc: Sharon Kestler



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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 15, 2001

Sharon Kestler MS, NCC  
Administrator of Education  
Harborcreek Youth Services  
5712 Iroquois Avenue  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Dear Ms. Kestler: *Sharon*

I am writing to you today with regard to the state's reimbursement schedule of Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions. Since you contacted me a few months ago, I have been discussing the need to change the reimbursement schedule with various legislators in the House of Representatives. As budget negotiations continue, I will continue to discuss the importance of this issue with my colleagues.

In addition, enclosed are copies of letters I sent to Governor Ridge and Robert Bittenbender, Secretary of the Governor's Budget Office. In the letters, I mentioned the importance of supplying Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions with additional funds in advance of an academic year. Specifically, I urged them to consider a reimbursement schedule that would supply 50 percent of funding in August and 50 percent in February.

Please know that I will continue to address the importance of this issue. If I may be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

enclosures



OCT 25 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
HARRISBURG

ROBERT A. BITTENBENDER  
SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

October 23, 2001

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
House of Representatives  
25B East Wing  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Please accept my apology for the delay in responding to your letter of June 15, 2001 regarding the reimbursement schedule for Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions (PRRIs). My staff and the Department of Education have been working on this issue.

A new payment schedule has been developed to address the cash flow concerns raised by the PRRIs. The new schedule will provide three payments to the PRRIs rather than the two payments they have received in past years. Under the new schedule, the Department of Education will pay a total of 76 percent of the most recent audited amount due in two equal payments - 38 percent in August and 38 percent in February. The balance owed will then be paid after completion of the final audit. It should be noted that the first payment was made to the PRRIs in August 2001 in accordance with this new schedule.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and express your thoughts on this issue. Please do not hesitate to bring other matters of concern or interest to our attention.

Sincerely,

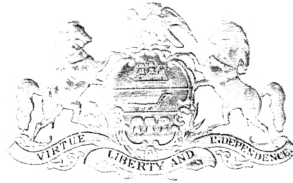
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Bittenbender".

Robert A. Bittenbender

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI, MEMBER  
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

October 31, 2001

Sharon Kestler MS, NCC  
Administrator of Education  
Harborcreek Youth Services  
5712 Iroquois Avenue  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Dear Ms. Kestler: - Sharon,

In March of 2001 you wrote to me requesting my support in changing the process by which the Commonwealth reimburses Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions.

I am writing to you to let you know that a new payment schedule has been developed to address the cash flow concerns raised by the PRRIs. The new schedule will provide three payments to the PRRIs rather than the two payments they have received in past years. Under the new schedule, the Department of Education will pay a total of 76 percent of the most recent audited amount due in two equal payments - 38 percent in August and 38 percent in February. The balance owed will then be paid after completion of the final audit. It should be noted that the first payment was made to the PRRIs in August 2001 in accordance with this new schedule.

If I may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

April 7, 1997

Mr. James Henry

[REDACTED]  
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Henry: *(Jm)*

Let me begin by agreeing with your disappointment regarding the debasement of Pennsylvania's state store employees.

The degradation of people is not necessary in order to make a position on an issue appear stronger. Unfortunately, such occurrences appear almost common. In order to avoid future misrepresentations of hardworking individuals, concerned people, like yourself, must make your outrage and disappointment known. Hopefully, through a cooperative effort of the citizens of this Commonwealth, we can prevent further indiscretions. And, please do not let this impropriety sour your image of the wonderful Commonwealth and its people.

Should legislation addressing the privatization of the state liquor stores be brought before the House of Representatives, your opposition to privatization will be remembered. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

*(Signature)*

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

COPY

/dje

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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sample

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- AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 22, 1997

Name  
Address

Dear :

Thank you for sharing your opposition of Governor Ridge's proposal to privatize the state stores.

The privatization of state stores has been an often revisited issue before the General Assembly during past legislative sessions. Various convincing arguments have been made by proponents of both sides. I am giving careful consideration to all of the proffered arguments, including my constituents opinions. Although both sides present valid arguments, the benefits of the current state liquor store system appear to outweigh the potential benefits offered by a privatized state liquor stores.

As you may know, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is the largest purchaser of wine and spirits in the United States. This system not only provides 3,000 jobs, which Governor Ridge's plan would eliminate, but it contributes to the Commonwealth's revenue. According to Governor Ridge's 1996-97 Budget Proposal, the Liquor Control Board grossed \$ 972 million in receipts enabling the transfer of \$ 230 million into the General Fund. The privatization/sale of the liquor stores will provide the Commonwealth with revenue in the form of a lump sum payment for the franchises. However, the Commonwealth will no longer be receiving the annual contributions rendered by the current state store system. The elimination of this source of revenue could produce a shortfall in the Commonwealth's annual budget and a new source of revenue, such as tax increases, would have to be found to cover the deficit.

In short, Governor Ridge's proposal, includes but is not limited to the sale of the franchises, the expansion of store hours, including state holidays, the prohibition of the sale of alcohol in grocery stores, pharmacies and convenience stores and the desire for the beer distributors system to remain untouched. The financial contributions that would be furnished by the sale of the state store franchise and the recipients of the noted contributions are also enumerated. Governor Ridge's plan is a complete and competent

April 22, 1997

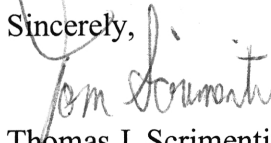
Page 2

proposal. However, I am hesitant to support this proposal because of the uncertainty about the overall benefit for the citizens of the Commonwealth offered by the proposed privatization.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Senate is holding hearings with respect to the proposed privatization of the state stores. My constituents' input is very important to me and will assist me in making the best choice for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Please be assured that your comments and suggestions will be remembered if legislation addressing the issue of privatization is introduced before the House of Representatives.

Again, I thank you for you sharing your opinions with me. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representatives

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

September 29, 1997

Mary Schnell

██████████  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Ms. Schnell:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me regarding the privatization of Pennsylvania State Liquor Stores. Your comments are welcomed and valued. It is always a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to express my thoughts on an issue as important as this one.

I have been a supporter of the state store system since I was elected and will fight to maintain it. The current system effectively prevents minors from obtaining alcohol until they reach the legal age. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, through strict regulations imposed on state owned liquor stores, helped to significantly reduce Pennsylvania's driving under the influence rate. Alcohol-related deaths in Pennsylvania are considerably lower than the national average.

The Liquor Control Board transfers a substantial dollar amount from the sale of each gallon of liquor and wine to the State Treasury. These transfers have been utilized to fund important programs such as education for schools and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Ultimately, the privatization of these stores would create a \$50 million to \$60 million tax deficit that the Pennsylvania taxpayers would be forced to absorb.

Please be assured that you can count of my full support regarding this issue. If you have questions or comments, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in black ink.  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

TJS/mtf

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
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HARRISBURG

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May 18, 1999

Mr. Homer L. Schreckengost, MS-II  
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine  
1264 Belle Village Drive South  
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Mr. Schreckengost:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing opposition to allowing nurse anesthetists to administer anesthesia without any physician supervision or direction. This legislation, House Bill 50, was referred to the House Professional Licensure Committee on March 24, 1999, where it awaits debate and modification before it will appear before the full House for consideration.

I especially appreciate hearing your opinion due to your perspective as a student at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. As you know, this is a very serious issue and there are strong supporters on both sides.

That being said, I will certainly examine this issue in-depth, and you may be sure that I will keep your concerns in mind when this bill arises for debate before the full House of Representatives. I also wish you the best of success as a medical student and in your future career. I hope that you will continue to keep me informed about your opinion on medical issues as well as any state-related concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative

Mailed 5-21-99 N.E.



THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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May 24, 1999

Karen Dudenhoefer, CRNP

[REDACTED]  
Erie, Pa 16504

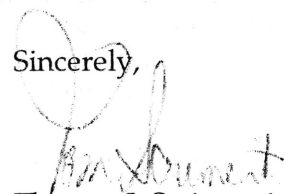
Dear Ms. Dudenhoefer:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your support for House Bill 50. This legislation was referred to the House Professional Licensure Committee on March 24, 1999, where it awaits debate and modification before it will appear before the full House for consideration.

I truly appreciate hearing your opinion due to your experiences as a nurse practitioner. Advances in the health-care field are likely to come about from professionals on the front lines of care, like yourself.

That being said, I will certainly continue to examine this issue in-depth, and you may be sure that I will keep your interests in mind when this bill arises for debate before the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

*(File back to D.-E.)  
Mailed N.E.*

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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June 25, 1999

Leo J. Swantek, Jr., D.O.

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16506

Dear Dr. Swantek:

I want to thank you for your recent letter expressing opposition to allowing nurse anesthetists to administer anesthesia without any physician supervision or direction. As you know, this is a very serious issue, with strong supporters on both sides, and I appreciate hearing your opinion due to your perspective as a physician.

This legislation, House Bill 50, was referred to the House Professional Licensure Committee on March 24, 1999. The next step the Committee plans to take in this legislation's process is to elicit more information and respond to citizens' questions and concerns. In order to encourage this communication, the Professional Licensure Committee has scheduled Public Hearings on the issue of House Bill 50 to be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel Station Square in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Should you not be able to attend these hearings, please feel free to contact my office for information on their outcome.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write expressing your views on House Bill 50. I hope you will continue to keep me informed about your opinion on medical issues as well as any state-related concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/dje

Mailed 6-28-99 N.E

[Sample]

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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February 22, 2000

Janie Blymiller, RN  
Nursing Administration  
Hamot Medical Center  
201 State Street  
Erie, PA 16550

Dear Ms. Blymiller:

Thank you for writing to request my support for HB 50 with amendments as proposed by the Alliance of Advance Practice Nurses. As a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, I have carefully followed the debate on the need for and merits of the legislation. I fully appreciate the frustration experienced by advance practice nurses in their long battle for autonomy in Pennsylvania.

I believe that the compromise legislation is a very positive accomplishment-one that gives the Committee and the parties involved a real opportunity to move ahead to resolve this long-standing dispute. I want to thank you especially for the time you've taken to express yourself on this important matter. Please know that your viewpoints and recommendations are valuable to me and that I will certainly keep them in mind before making any decision regarding House Bill 50.

Again, thank you for writing. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on this or any other issue of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/dje



Hamot Medical Center  
201 State Street  
Erie, PA 16550  
(814) 877-6000

JAN 18 1990

January 10, 2000

The Honorable Thomas Scrimenti  
House of Professional Licensure Committee  
P.O. Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing as a registered nurse residing in your district, asking for your support of House Bill 50, legislation designed to end more than two decades of bickering between the state Medical and Nursing Boards over the practice of Advanced Practice Nursing. The idea of joint promulgation of regulations clearly has not worked, as it is apparent that only the introduction of HB 50 brought even a proposal to the table. There is no assurance that the final regulations will ever be agreed on between the Boards, so it is time the Legislature placed the jurisdiction for nursing practice back where it belongs. That is with the State Board of Nursing, with clear guidance from the General Assembly as to who should be qualified to prescribe independently, and under what circumstances.

As you are aware, the House Professional Licensure Committee has held several days of public hearings on this issue. From those hearings, it was clear that while some in the medical profession would prefer to retain its current control on our profession, the members of the Committee realize that those days are past, and the time has come to give nurses in Pennsylvania the same autonomy that is granted to our colleagues in the vast majority of the states, the same autonomy granted to all other health care professionals that have prescribing privileges in this state. It was also apparent that HB 50 will not pass in this Committee without some major revisions. Amendment language has been developed and proposed by the Alliance of Advance Practice Nurses to address the legitimate issues raised in the hearings. Those amendments will have the following effects:

HB 50 does not change any scopes of practice. For the first time, the Professional Nursing Law will have definitions of the three types of Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), and provides for clear descriptions of die role of each. As amended the bill would state clearly that only Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners and Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists who have met appropriate credentialing criteria would be allowed to prescribe in collaboration with physicians and dentists. It defines the practice of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in accordance with existing regulations.

The amendments also provide for continuing education and professional liability insurance requirements for all APNS, regardless of whether they prescribe or not.

The time has come for this legislation to finally complete the task begun in 1974, giving qualified professional nurses the ability to practice as they are trained, without artificial barriers set up by another professional licensing board. I ask for your support of HB 50, with the amendments offered by the Alliance, when it is considered by the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janie Blymiller".

Janie Blymiller, RN  
Nursing Administration

**Ehrhart, Donna**

**From:** Brubaker, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2000 4:14 PM  
**To:** Ehrhart, Donna  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - House Bill 50

-----Original Message-----

**From:** **Brubaker, Jennifer**  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2000 12:32 PM  
**To:** Bullock, Roderick; Caulfield, Scott; Conk, Mary Elizabeth; Cronrath, Daniel; Curlett, Gale; Cusick, Patrick; Davis, Gail M.; DePalma, Sharon; Good, Shawn; Harmon, Cassandra; Keen, Angela; Kusler, Don; Minnick, Bill; Norton, Helen; Palanzo, Angela; Parsells, Glenn; Price, Jon; Richards, Seth; Ruzansky, Dan  
**Subject:** FYI - House Bill 50

**ATTENTION LRO STAFF:**

I just got off the phone with Barbara Harr, the executive director of the House Professional Licensure Committee. I called her to get an update on House Bill 50. Many of you are working or have worked on letters regarding this issue so please take note of the following update.

Negotiations are still on going with regard to HB 50. The process has become extremely fluid and the circumstances are changing everyday. A few select Members and staff (both Republican and Democrat) met a few weeks ago to try to settle on some compromise. A draft amendment to the legislation was prepared and distributed for comment among this group. Several revisions were suggested. In the meantime, the Medical Society has expressed its concerns with the amendment and wants additional changes. Consequently, the "compromise amendment" has been scrapped. They are now working on something new. Representatives Manderino and Vance are also working together to try to develop some changes to the legislation. Once a consensus is found, the group will meet again to discuss the future of the legislation. Therefore, the future of this legislation is still up in the air.

Meanwhile, the committee is also preparing for a March 15<sup>th</sup> committee meeting to discuss proposed regulations. The proposed regulations would provide prescriptive rights to some nurses, much of which is the center of controversy with regard to HB 50. Word has it that the outcome of the regulations will ultimately impact the future of HB 50. Both doctors and nurses are weighing in on this issue.

In sum, this issue has opened an ugly and controversial can of worms. When responding, please be sensitive to these issues and inform Members as to the controversy surrounding this issue.

Thanks,

Jen Brubaker