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Senate of Pennsylvania

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September 21, 2026

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

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Department of Health's proposed Communicable Disease regulations, Regulation No. 10-221. I will not support these regulations in their current form.

Pennsylvania must be prepared to respond effectively to communicable diseases. That responsibility, however, does not give the Department unlimited authority to collect personal information, intrude on parental rights or impose sweeping mandates without clear legislative approval.

The proposal would require near-real-time reporting of every emergency room visit in Pennsylvania, including extensive personal and medical information and any additional data the Department deems necessary. It would also mandate reporting of individual vaccination records unless a patient opts out, creating a government database containing names, addresses, dates of birth and other identifying information.

The regulations would also authorize the Department to impose any disease-control measure it considers "appropriate and necessary." The Department acknowledges this language is intended to permit actions such as school mask mandates following the Commonwealth Court's decision in *Corman v. Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health*. The regulatory process should not be used to claim broad powers that were never clearly granted by the General Assembly.

Equally troubling, the Department could enter homes, schools, health care facilities and other locations to conduct investigations, contact tracing or broadly defined "partner services." Schools could be required to provide government personnel access to students for private conversations involving sensitive medical, sexual-health and social-service matters while parents and others are prohibited from interfering. This represents an unacceptable intrusion into parental rights, informed consent and the privacy of minors.

The regulations would also significantly expand the number of reportable conditions and replace references to pregnant women and mothers with gender-neutral terminology. Rules concerning pregnancy, childbirth and maternal health should use clear, biologically accurate language.

Taken together, these provisions represent a disturbing expansion of government power without adequate limits, oversight or protections. Public health cannot become a blanket justification for mass data collection, executive overreach or the erosion of individual and parental rights.

I urge the Commission to reject these regulations in their current form. Policies carrying consequences this serious must be openly debated, authorized by the General Assembly and accompanied by clear safeguards. Until these concerns are addressed, I will remain firmly opposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Laughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Laughlin".

Dan Laughlin
Senate of Pennsylvania
49th District