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April 15, 2024

Cynthia K. Montgomery, Deputy Chief Counsel
 Department of State
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 Via email: cymontgome@pa.gov

**Re: Regulatory Package 16A-66 (Consideration of
 Criminal Convictions), Final-Form Rulemaking**

Dear Ms. Montgomery:

We were the prime sponsors of SB 637 and HB 1477, the legislation that ultimately was enacted as Act 53 of 2020, more commonly known as “occupational licensing reform.” In our December 19, 2022 letter concerning the regulatory package proposed by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) to implement Act 53, we urged BPOA to review and revise the “directly related” lists before resubmission of the package. We are pleased to see that the final-form regulations are consistent with the intent of Act 53.

The final form regulation package is responsive to our critique of the proposed package.

- BPOA and its boards and commissions significantly pared down the “directly related” lists, which were overly broad and in direct contrast to the spirit of this legislation and the intentions of its makers. We note that Boards may still consider offenses not on the list on an individual, case by case, basis.
- The regulations now contain time limits on how long an offense is directly related. No longer is anyone who was long ago convicted of a listed offense presumed unfit. Lifetime bans are eliminated.

These regulations comply with the intent of Act 53, which is to open the professions more widely to rehabilitated people with old and unrelated criminal records and to provide relief to businesses struggling to find qualified workers. We support the final-form rulemaking for Act 53 and commend BPOA for its revisions.

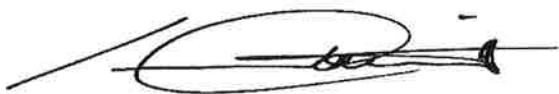
Sincerely,



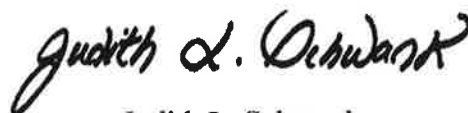
Sheryl M. Delozier
State Representative
88th Legislative District



John DiSanto
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15th Senate District



Jordan A. Harris
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186th Legislative District



Judith L. Schwank
State Senator
11th Senate District

cc: Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Via email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Michelle L. Elliott, Regulatory Analyst
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Via email: melliott@irrc.state.pa.us

House Professional Licensure Committee
Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee