

9714 Beacon Road  
Philadelphia, PA. 19115  
October 21, 2019

Greetings,

I am writing this letter to request bipartisan support to exempt Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Pre School Activities and Programs from Pa Department of Human Services Child Care Licensing requirements.

I developed, implemented and oversaw preschool activities as a professional recreation leader. My children and grandchildren participated in recreational preschool activities. These activities include dance, tumbling, crafts, and camps.

Social activities in a fun setting are critical to skill development in young children. They learn to share, take turns and "play nice". Often, moms staying home with young children as well as grandparents, take advantage of these activities. It also provides a sense of community to the caregivers. Currently, more children with a disability participate in these activities. It is a sort of "family testing ground" for inclusion. Families want their children to just be part of activities and play with typically developing children. ALL children and families are richer for the experience.

Activities are of a high program standard and program leaders have current background checks. Activities average one to three hours and are not child-care programs. There is rigorous supervision.

I urge you to look at the social and community building these activities offer. A licensing requirement would cause most programs to be eliminated and hurt our communities at a time when we most need to bring people together. Please consider the whole picture and the difference between formally licensed child-care and community recreational programs .

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Muller, CPRP  
Retired Recreation Professional, Parent and Grandparent