

**West Manchester
Township**

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October 22, 2019

PA House of Representatives
ATTN: Children & Youth Committee
Harrisburg, PA 17120

SUBJECT: Impact of Pre-School Legislation

Dear Committee:

My name is Lori Trimmer, I am the Parks and Recreation Director for West Manchester Township in York, PA. I am writing in reference to the Preschool Recreation hearing with House Children & Youth Committee on October 29. My reason for providing testimony relates to the effect on community recreation programs due to the current guidelines for departments offering preschool programming.

West Manchester Township has been offering summer recreation programs for preschoolers for many years. Our programs are in session from 9:00 AM – Noon, five days per week, for six weeks during the summer months. We offer our summer recreation programs at various playgrounds/parks in our township. The new guidelines for preschool programs have led us to reevaluate long standing programs because they would not be able to meet the new guidelines.

The guidelines would prevent us from being able to offer these programs and leave our residents with no alternatives. We enroll many participants in our summer programs every year. These programs provide enrichments and socialization opportunities to preschoolers in West Manchester Township. Parents and their children have relied on these programs to build friendships and develop school readiness skills. These programs are also very important to our summer staff, most are college students trying to acquire their teaching degrees.

I do not believe when these guidelines were put in place, they were meant to eliminate township programs like ours, but the effect is the same.

I respectfully request the committee consider our petition for township recreation departments to be granted an exemption from the preschool guidelines.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Kelch', written over a white background.

Kelly Kelch
Township Manager

Lori Trimmer
Parks and Recreation Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristi Swartz', written over a white background.

Kristi Swartz
Asst. Parks & Rec Director