

July 12, 2011

The Honorable Dan Truitt  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
21 South Church Street, 1st Floor  
West Chester, PA 19382  
Via Fax: (610) 738-2163

**RE: HB 1713- Support**

Dear Representative Truitt:

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center to thank you for sponsoring H.B. 1713, a bill that would provide family and medical leave to eligible employees. This bill is a logical extension of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and would permit family members to take job and benefit protected leave in order to care for a sibling, grandparent, or grandchild who has a serious health condition. In today's society family has a much broader meaning than one's parents or children. If passed, this bill would allow the FMLA's protections to extend to a broader family structure and would prevent people from having to choose between their jobs and taking care of their family members.

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) is the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country, having served the disability community for over 35 years. Our mission is to champion the rights of people with disabilities through education, advocacy, and litigation.

Through our Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), we have unique knowledge and experience with laws and legislation that impact the rights of individuals diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors and caregivers. The CLRC, a national, joint program of the DLRC and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, has provided over 235,000 people with free information and resources on cancer-related legal issues, including access to care, insurance, government benefits, estate planning, and employment. Please visit [www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org](http://www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org) for more information.

We have a special understanding of the pressing psychosocial needs of people diagnosed with cancer, critical cancer survivorship issues, and the importance of assisting family members and loved ones when there is a serious medical condition at hand. The DRLC strongly supports H.B. 1713, and we appreciate your dedication in the fight to expand workers' rights. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if there is anything that we can do to ensure passage of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Paula D. Pearlman, Esq.  
Executive Director, Disability Rights Legal Center



Joanna L. Morales, Esq.  
Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center