



The National Association for Regulatory Administration
www.naralicensing.org

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Administrative Office

403 Marquis Ave. Ste. 200
Lexington, KY 40502
Tel: 859-514-1921
Fax: 859-231-1943

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: H.4510 (Max 5 – foster families)

Dear Governor Haley:

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Tara Lynne Orlowski and I am President of the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA). NARA is an international, non-profit, professional association founded in 1976 that works to provide the highest quality of comprehensive, evidence-based professional development services for every human care regulatory agency and every individual who is, or who aspires to become, a professional human care regulator.

I am writing you regarding H.4510. On March 8, 2016, this legislation was approved by the South Carolina House of Representatives by 93-0 and, on May 5, 2016, it passed the South Carolina Senate by 39-3. It now goes back to the House for a quick up or down vote and then on to you for signature. If enacted, this bill would allow families to care for up to five children in foster care with no more than eight children in one single home.

The crafting of H.4510 was in part based on a set of Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards

(http://www.naralicensing.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108:model-family-foster-home-licensing-standards&catid=20:site-content)

developed by a partnership between NARA, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Generations United and the American Bar Association (a hard copy is enclosed). The end result of this unique collaboration was a set of 10 guiding principles that represent a comprehensive set of national guidelines that provides states with a set of clear and practical requirements that help ensure that children in foster care are safe while establishing a pathway to enable more relatives and non-related caregivers to become licensed foster parents. The standards also include an interpretative guide that summarizes the purpose of each standard, and provides instructions for compliance determinations and a crosswalk tool designed to assist states and counties in comparing and aligning their current standards with the Model. Designed to recognize the need for states to have extraordinary flexibility to create

family foster home licensing standards, this resource aligns with the current federal standard that requires that that states develop guidelines “reasonably in accord” with national organizations’ recommendations.

On behalf of NARA and its members I would like to encourage you to sign H.4510. It is our belief that this bill will assist with ensuring that children in foster care are safe, while also establishing a reasonable, common-sense pathway to enable more relatives and non-related caregivers to become licensed foster parents. In addition, Attorneys at Generations United and the ABA Center on Children and the Law are available to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions seeking to align their current rules, policies and practices with the Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards. This technical assistance is available free-of-charge thanks to support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tara Lynne Orlowski, M.Ed.
President



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taraorlowski@naralicensing.org
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TLO/ydp
Enclosure