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March 23, 2000

David J. Bloomer
Research Analyst
House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House Judiciary Committee

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

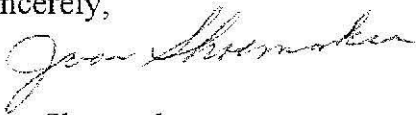
I regret that I will be unable to testify at the Judiciary Committee's task force on Adoptions' Public Hearing scheduled for today, March 23, 2000. I will be at a hearing for the entire day. Judge Little had anticipated that the matter would be concluded by Wednesday, March 22, 2000, and I assumed that I would be available by today. Unfortunately, such is not the case.

I spoke this morning with Judge Paul Zavarella, Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. I concur in the views offered by Judge Zavarella.

Thank you very much for offering me this opportunity to share my thoughts on the proposed adoption legislation. I apologize for any inconvenience that my scheduling conflict may have caused.

If I can ever be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joan Shoemaker

JS/tlj