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One-Page Policy Brief Improving Efficiency in Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)

Overview

The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is responsible for ensuring services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). However, inefficiencies in regulatory and administrative processes create unnecessary burdens on providers and limit service availability. This brief outlines key reforms that would enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve service delivery.

Key Legislative Priorities

- **Expand Housing and Roommate Choice in Better Alignment with CMS Settings Rule**
 - Modify regulations to increase housing flexibility, allowing more individuals to be supported with the same or fewer staffing resources.
- **Exempt IDD Group Homes from Costly Sprinkler Requirements**
 - Implement alternative fire safety measures to reduce financial strain on providers while maintaining resident safety.
- **Simplify Performance-Based Contracting by Removing DEI-Specific Compliance**
 - Reduce administrative costs by eliminating redundant reporting while maintaining non-discrimination protections.
- **Allow Billing Unit Rounding for IDD Services**
 - Align policies with other DHS programs to simplify financial reconciliation and reduce provider burden.

Key Executive Actions

- **Improve the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Assessment Process**
 - Establish a standardized appeal process and enhance training to improve consistency and fairness.
- **Eliminate Redundant Licensing and Documentation Requirements**
 - Streamline oversight by reducing duplicative paperwork across various compliance initiatives.
- **Adjust Incident Management and Medication Error Reporting**
 - Allow direct dashboard access for Supports Coordinators and exempt providers from investigating pharmacy/physician errors.
- **Enhance Efficiency in Claims Processing**
 - Integrate claims and authorization systems to simplify billing and reduce administrative overhead.

Conclusion

These targeted reforms will improve service efficiency, reduce costs, and ensure high-quality support for individuals with IDD. Legislative and executive action is needed to modernize Pennsylvania's ODP framework, making it more sustainable and responsive to the needs of providers and individuals alike. Immediate implementation of these changes will enhance care while eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens.