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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

2499

January 7, 2008

James M. Smith, Esq.
IRRC
333 Market Street
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regulation #6-295
IRRC #2499

Dear Mr. Smith:

The final form State Board of Education regulation 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 4 Academic Standards and Assessments is scheduled for consideration and action by the Commission on January 10, 2008. We, the undersigned Democratic members of the House Education Committee, write to express our disapproval of this regulation.

This is now an ever-increasing body of literature, coming from the business community, the federal government, and the National Association of State Boards of Education, for example, recommending foreign language study for all students. Indeed, just recently, NASBE issued a white paper recommending not only that all students but that *all TEACHERS* receive foreign language training, because of the necessity of integrating global awareness into *all* subjects. Parents who want their children prepared to succeed in the 21st century's global economy are demanding that their children receive foreign language training, beginning in the very early grades.

School districts are responding to these demands, and although foreign languages are not yet a graduation requirement in Pennsylvania, many of our schools are using a variety of means to provide foreign language study to their students. In this situation, that is, with more and more language programs, and more and more teachers of foreign languages, it is essential that Pennsylvania adopt standards for the teaching of foreign languages.

Chairman, Education Committee
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

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Caucuses

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, Member
Board of Directors

2008 JAN ... PA Historical and Museum Commission
Black History Advisory Committee, Member
PA Legislative Black Caucus, Member

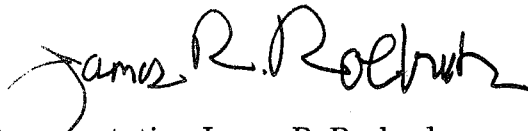
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Foreign languages standards were prepared and approved by various bodies some years ago and were to be included in Chapter 4. For some reason not clear to many, and although standards have been adopted for 12 other subjects, including physical education, home economics and career planning, the State Board *removed* the foreign language standards from Chapter 4 and approved the Chapter without them. Despite previously raised objections, Chapter 4 without foreign language standards is now before you for consideration and action.

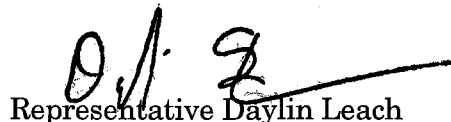
We urge you to disapprove this regulation and to return Chapter 4 to the State Board of Education for revision, specifically, for inclusion of foreign languages standards.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

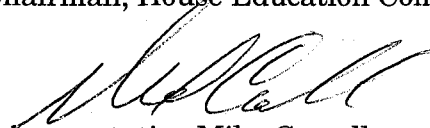
Sincerely,



Representative James R. Roebuck
Chairman, House Education Committee



Representative Daylin Leach



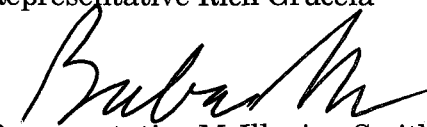
Representative Mike Carroll



Representative Rich Grucela



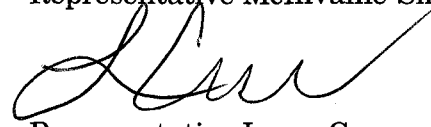
Representative Thaddeus Kirkland



Representative McIlvaine-Smith



Representative Chelsa Wagner



Representative Larry Curry