

**RAPHAEL MUSTO**

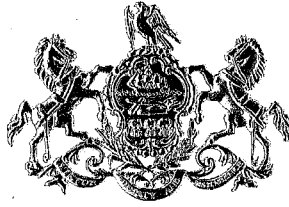
14TH DISTRICT  
SENATE BOX 203014  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3014  
PHONE: (717) 787-7105  
FAX: (717) 783-4141

DISTRICT OFFICE  
81 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 786  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-0786  
(724) 654-1483  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-280-4277  
FAX: (724) 626-5470

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE ADDRESS  
OF THE BOX CHECKED.

E-MAIL: musto@pasenate.com  
WEBSITE: www.senatormusto.com

#2499



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

December 12, 2007

**COMMITTEES**

- EDUCATION, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
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- STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

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

Re: Regulation #6-295  
IRRC #2499

RECEIVED  
 2007 DEC 12 PM 3:30  
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
 COMMISSION

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 Senate 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

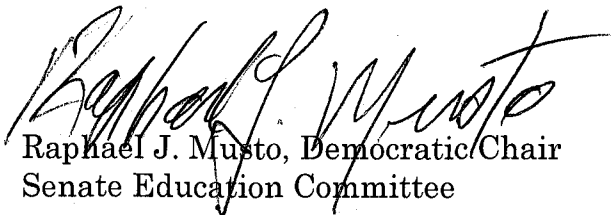
programs, and more and more teachers of foreign languages, it is essential that Pennsylvania adopt standards for the teaching of foreign languages.

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.

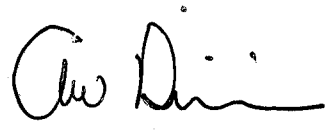
We urge you to disapprove this regulation and to return Chapter 4 to the State Board of Education for revision, specifically, for inclusion of foreign languages standards.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

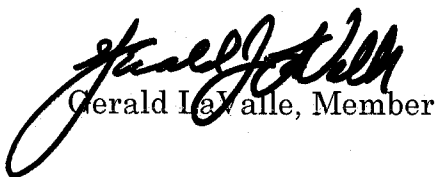
Sincerely,



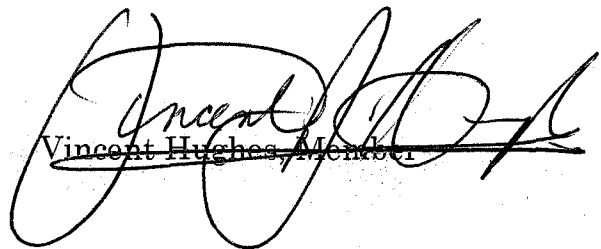
Raphael J. Musto, Democratic Chair  
Senate Education Committee



Andrew Dinniman, Member



Gerald LaValle, Member



Vincent Hughes, Member