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# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 12, 2005

Ms. Renee Kerr  
183 Fire Creek Road  
Newtown, PA 18940

Dear Ms. Kerr:

Thank you for your letter of December 6, 2005 on proposed 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 49, Certification of Professional Personnel.

Your letter is considered as official public comment and is being shared with all members of the Board. Pursuant to the provisions of the Regulatory Review Act, copies of your comments are also being provided to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Education Committees.

The regulatory Review Act provides that information on proposed and final regulations be mailed to public commentators at their request. If you would like to receive the final-form of these regulations when they are finalized, please make your request to me in writing at the address printed below.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Buckheit".

Jim Buckheit  
Executive Director

cc: Members of the State Board  
Senator Rhoades  
Senator Musto  
Representatives Stairs  
Representatives Roebuck  
IRRC

REC'D DEC 08 2005

Renee Kerr  
183 Fire Creek Road  
Newtown, PA 18940  
December 6, 2005

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing with regard to the proposed revisions to the Chapter 49 regulations that set forth the basic rules for teacher preparation, certification and continuing professional development.

Specifically, I urge the State Board of Education to adopt the newly proposed language that revises the former Sections 49.84 and 49.104. Those sections limited the twenty-four college credits acceptable for a teacher to convert their certification from a Level I to a Level II certificate to those "earned at a State approved baccalaureate degree granting institution."

The old language precluded college credits earned at an institution that granted only graduate degrees from being applied toward teacher certification. I was especially concerned about the International Institute for Restorative Practices, a new graduate degree-granting institution in Bethlehem that is hoping to achieve approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in 2006 under the provisions of 24 Pa. C.S.A. § 6502(b)(2). As a special education teacher, I believe that college credits from this new graduate school will be of great benefit to educators seeking Level II certification.

Therefore I was pleased to see that the revised language simply calls for "twenty-four credit hours of collegiate study or its equivalent." This new language allows any worthwhile college credits to apply toward teacher certification. I applaud this essential change to the Chapter 49 regulations. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

