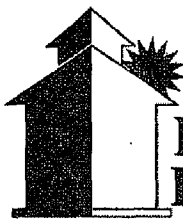


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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



Quality & Fairness in
Pennsylvania's Public Schools

EDUCATION LAW CENTER

August 13, 2007

CO-DIRECTORS

Janet F. Stotland
Len Rieser

State Board of Education
333 Market Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: No. 2583 State Board of Education #6-303: Certification of Professional Personnel
(Chapter 49)

To the Members of the State Board of Education and the Independent Regulatory
Review Commission:

The Education Law Center (ELC) encourages the Independent Regulatory
Review Commission to approve the final form revisions to Chapter 49.

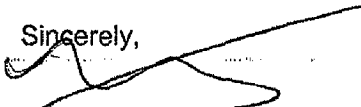
The Chapter 49 changes in teacher preparation and professional development
are necessary for the Commonwealth to meet its legal obligations under existing state
and federal laws. Improving teacher knowledge and skills for diverse learners will allow
compliance with the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and with
State academic and assessment standards.

The State Board developed these regulations through an excellent process of
engaging stakeholders in addressing real classroom needs. ELC believes that children,
teachers, and schools will benefit from the new provisions. ELC did not get everything
we asked for in this round of policy development, but we respect the judgment of the
State Board and will work for additional reforms in the future.

Prompt approval of these regulations by IRRC will help to ensure that all
educators can meet the highest expectations for student achievement, teacher quality,
and school performance. ELC will continue working with the State Board to further
strengthen the rules for teacher certification to ensure that all students have access to
highly qualified teachers and a quality public education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


BARUCH KINTISCH
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