

11TH DISTRICT
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REPLY TO:

Harrisburg Office

Democratic Whip



2583

Senate of Pennsylvania

January 11, 2007

Alvin C. Bush, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Bush:

I am writing to relay the concerns of Dr. Helen H. Larson, Superintendent of the Wyomissing Area School District, with respect to suggested amendments to the state's teacher certification regulations as proposed by the state Board of Education and currently before the IRRC.

According to Dr. Larson, these proposed regulations "would make it more difficult" to "appropriately staff" the district's schools. A letter more thoroughly outlining Dr. Larson's concerns is enclosed.

I trust you will carefully study the issues raised by Dr. Larson in conjunction with any final determination of this matter. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Michael A. O'Pake
Senator -- 11th District

MAO'P: JH
ENCLOSURE

CC: Honorable James J. Rhoades, Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Raphael J. Musto, Democratic Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Jim Buckheit, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Superintendent Larson

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WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Helen H. Larson
Superintendent

Dr. Janet E. Kennedy
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Shelly M. Riedel
Assistant Superintendent

Arthur J. McDonnell
Director of Business Affairs

2583

December 20, 2006

Michael A. O'Pake, Esq.
Rockland Professional Center
1940 N. 13th Street, Suite 232
Reading, PA 19604

Dear Sen. O'Pake:

I am writing to oppose the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2) that are now before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulations, if finally adopted, would make it more difficult for us to appropriately staff our schools. I oppose the changes because:

- they will narrow the preparation of elementary certificate holders at a time when teachers are expected to work with a broader range of performance in their classes
- they will lead to departmentalizing disciplines at lower grades at a time when many curriculum experts are suggesting greater and more natural integration of content
- they will result in less flexibility to staff elementary schools
- they may lead to shortages in upper-elementary certified and special education certified teachers.

For these reasons, we urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49-2 regulations.

Sincerely,

Helen H. Larson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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