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Senate of Pennsylvania

February 20, 2007

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FEB 26 2007

**PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

Karl Girton, Chairman
State Board of Education
First Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Girton, Dr. Fogarty and other members of the State Board of Education:

I write to express my support of the proposed changes to Chapter 49 (called "49-2"). I believe that these changes have the laudable, and essential, purpose of ensuring that *all* of our public school children receive the education they need to meet Pennsylvania's achievement standards. In order to accomplish this goal, three other missions must be achieved. First, our teachers must be properly prepared to teach in increasingly diverse classrooms. This means our teacher preparatory institutions must adopt the aforesaid goal as a pedagogical and, indeed, moral mandate. Second, the training of our teachers to deal with diverse learners must continue throughout their professional careers, such that pre-induction programs and Act 48 professional education reinforce, enlarge and update the training our teachers receive in college. Finally, our certification scheme must accurately reflect the developmental learning needs of children, such that our teachers are trained to deal with the age group they will be teaching. The current certification scheme so "dumbs down" the elementary certificate as to make it meaningless, and useless to our students' achievement.

I applaud the efforts of the State Board and the Department, and particularly of Dr. Fogarty, in developing the revisions to Chapter 49. I urge their approval by the entire Board, and by IRRC, to whom a copy of this letter has been sent. I will also encourage support for the proposal in my entire Caucus.

Sincerely

RAPHAEL J. MUSTO
State Senator

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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cc: IRRC

Senators Hughes, LaValle and Dinniman