

DAN A. SURRA
DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP
CAUCUS ADMINISTRATOR

2583



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

ST. MARYS OFFICE:
962C SOUTH ST. MARYS STREET
ST. MARYS, PENNSYLVANIA 15857
PHONE: (814) 781-6301
FAX: (814) 781-7213

DUBOIS OFFICE:
25 E. PARK AVENUE, SUITE 5
DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15801
PHONE: (814) 375-4688
FAX: (814) 375-5955

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
ROOM 512-E MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202075
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2075
PHONE: (717) 787-7226
FAX: (717) 772-3072

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REVIEW COMMISSION

February 22, 2007

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

COPY

Anthony S. Guido
P.O. Box 487
DuBois, PA 15801

Dear Mr. Guido:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding teacher certification requirements in Pennsylvania.

Your points concerning a teaching applicant's prior work experience are very well taken. The art of teaching is not just about subject knowledge; there are of course intangible qualities which contribute to the profile of a professional educator.

As you may know, the standards and regulations for teacher certification in Pennsylvania are set by the State Board of Education, and are in turn administered by the Department of Education's Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation. There are currently seven types of teaching certificates issued, and two levels of certification designated to complete established requirements.

Additionally, we have a Pennsylvania Teacher Intern Certification Program designed to recruit more individuals into the teaching profession. Offered at 37 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, this program allows those who have baccalaureate degrees to pursue teaching opportunities if certain course credit hours and grade point averages are met. Mary may well be able to work on her degree and get into the classroom through this option. She must first pass the required Praxis tests.

Our teaching requirements are very stringent and have gotten more so in recent years. We do this to ensure that only the most qualified individuals be allowed to take on the most important task of instructing our children. I was a teacher for 14 years prior to running for elected office. I have seen some individuals that were brilliant in their various fields that had very difficult times in the classroom. Changes have been made in an effort to keep that from occurring. President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" has made it even more difficult for an individual to get into the teaching profession. The reason for this of course is that we have the best qualified people doing the job. In any event, I will forward your letter to the Executive Director of the State Board of Education so they are aware of your comments on this important education issue.

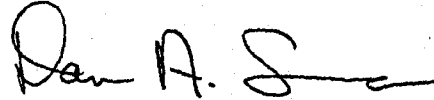


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Page 2

As always, I appreciate the benefit of your remarks, and will bear them in mind with respect to any relevant legislation. Likewise, if you have any questions or need further assistance in any matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan A. Surra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan A. Surra
State Representative

DAS:tm

cc: Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
State Board of Education