

RAPHAEL MUSTO

✓
14TH DISTRICT
SENATE BOX 203014
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3014
PHONE: (717) 787-7105
FAX: (717) 783-4141

□ **DISTRICT OFFICE**

81 SOUTH MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 786
PITTSBURGH, PA 15240-0786
(570) 654-1483
TOLL FREE: 1-800-280-4277
FAX: (570) 926-5470

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE ADDRESS
OF THE BOX CHECKED.

E-MAIL: musto@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.senatormusto.com

**Senate of Pennsylvania****2583**

June 1, 2007

Karl Girton, Chair
State Board of Education
First Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Re: Chapter 49-2

Dear Chairman Girton:

I write to assure you of my continuing support for the amendments to Chapter 49 concerning teacher certification and special education and ELL training recently approved by the Board in final form. I applaud the Board for integrating many of the changes suggested by various stakeholders during the review process. I believe that, as written, the regulations will permit teacher preparation institutions, students and teachers adequate time to comply with the new requirements. Most important, I am absolutely convinced of the necessity of these changes if we are to have any hope of educating *all* students in Pennsylvania and of meeting the standards of NCLB.

Please extend special thanks to Dr. James Fogarty and the members of his committee for their mammoth accomplishment.

Sincerely,

RAPHAEL J. MUSTO
State Senator

RJM/mcz/alv

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