

RAPHAEL MUSTO

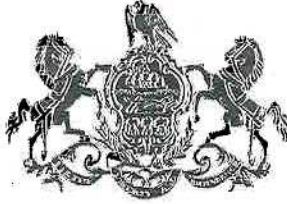
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Senate of Pennsylvania

December 1, 2006

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STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

Robert L. Urzillo, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Conrad Weiser Area School District
44 Big Spring Road
Robesonia, PA 19551-8905

Re: Chapter 49-2 regulations

Dear Superintendent Urzillo:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the Chapter 49-2 regulations, currently in proposed stage.

As evidenced by the enclosed correspondence, I have transmitted your letter to Jim Buckheit, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, for further transmittal to the subcommittee of the Board that is addressing these regulations.

Please be advised that because the current legislative term ended before hearings on these regulations could be held in either the House or the Senate and because concerns continue to be raised from many sectors of the educational community, I am confident that final action on these regulations will not be taken for some time, probably not until next spring. As of today's date, none of the Education Committees have expressed approval of the regulations. It is my understanding that the Board will continue to receive and consider all comments. I would advise you to check the Board's website for further information about the status of these regulations.

Thank you again for your correspondence and your interest in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

RAPHAEL J. MUSTO
State Senator

cc: James Buckheit, Executive Director, State Board of Education

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REVIEW COMMISSION



CONRAD WEISER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central Administration
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Robert L. Urzillo, Ed. D. <i>Superintendent</i> (610) 693-8545	Dennis T. Roule, D.Ed. <i>Asst. Superintendent</i> (610) 693-8515	Michael A. Gokay <i>Dir. of Secondary Ed.</i> (610) 693-8583	Thomas D. Longenecker <i>Director of Business</i> (610) 693-8542
John R. Kuhn <i>Transportation Coordinator</i> (610) 693-8561	Philip L. Willman <i>Supervisor of Bldgs./Grounds</i> (610) 693-8507	Candice E. Hartranft <i>Director of Food Services</i> (610) 693-8553	Clark Knarr <i>Director of Technology</i> (610) 693-8538

November 29, 2006

The Honorable Raphael J. Musto
Senate Education Committee
Senate Box 203014
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3014

Dear Senator Musto:

Recently revisions have been proposed that will change the requirements for teacher certification; specifically, Chapter 49 regulations. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes.

Studies indicate that there will soon be a shortage of people for teaching positions. Those of us involved in hiring are already observing this trend, and I fear that Chapter 49 will exacerbate the situation. However, even if the supply of prospective teachers will be abundant, the proposed revisions are educationally questionable.

From an educational perspective, the impact of this legislation may lead to the following:

1. Narrow the preparation of elementary teachers and lead to overspecialization. Any person who has ever taught or observed an elementary class knows the range of differences and abilities among students is diverse. Calibrating undergraduate training will reduce the ability of future teachers to apply differentiated pedagogy to all of their students.
2. The regulations may lead to a departmentalizing of disciplines at the lower grades. What we need is an integration, not specialization, of skills and knowledge.
3. Chapter 49 proposals will result in less flexibility in staffing. I have personally observed many talented teachers who have successfully moved from one grade to another in their careers. This may not occur if Chapter 49 is legislated.

Additionally, from a personnel perspective, I fear that the proposals will lead to a further shortage in special education teachers. We already face serious problems in this certification area. The new proposals may reduce our capacity to fulfill the "highly qualified" requirement of *No Child Left Behind*.

I respectfully request that you consider the impact of Chapter 49 on local school districts and urge you to disapprove the regulations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Urzillo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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