

11TH DISTRICT
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REPLY TO:

Harrisburg Office

Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

December 4, 2006

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. Nicholas J. Corbo, Superintendent of the Exeter Township School District, with respect to proposed amendments to the state's teacher certification regulations as proposed by the state Board of Education and currently before the IRRC.

According to Dr. Corbo, these proposed regulations would have an adverse impact on the operations of his district and others. Dr. Corbo's concerns are more fully detailed in the enclosed letter.

I trust you will carefully study the issues raised in Dr. Corbo's letter 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

COMMITTEES

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 MINORITY CHAIRMAN
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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 Corbo

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

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Exeter Township School District

3650 Perkiomen Avenue - Reading, PA 19606-2798

610-779-0700 - FAX 610-779-7104

Nicholas J. Corbo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Beverly A. Martin, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

November 28, 2006

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

Dear Senator O'Pake:

I am writing to ask you 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. Specifically, they would:

- 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
- lead to departmentalizing disciplines at lower grades at a time when many curriculum experts are suggesting greater and more natural integration of content
- result in less flexibility to staff elementary schools
- lead to shortages in upper-elementary certified and special education certified teachers.

For the reasons stated, I urge you to reject the proposed amendments to Teacher Certification Regulations.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Corbo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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