

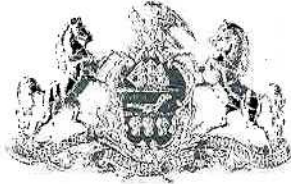
JENNIFER L. MANN, MEMBER

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

December 6, 2006

Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

It has come to my attention that changes have been proposed to Chapter 49-2 that would alter the accreditation of elementary and middle school teachers by eliminating the current K-6 certification. In its place, two categories of accreditation (Pre K-3 and Middle 4-8) would be created. I have deep concerns about this proposal's impact on our 501 school districts and ask that you delay the implantation of this proposal until it can be studied further.

It is my belief that this stricter accreditation scheme would restrict the abilities of district administrators and school principals to place qualified teachers in certain classrooms. Furthermore, it will force those who choose to study education to be accredited in two fields of study instead of one in order to be employable in the Commonwealth. Finally, knowing that fourth grade students are dramatically different than eight graders in terms of development, I am concerned that those students will not be served properly.

Please know that I am committed to ensuring that pre-Kindergarten children receive proper education, and thus we need a stronger pre-K certification program. Additionally, I am not opposed to changing the certification to ensure better teaching practices for children across our Commonwealth. However I am of the opinion that this particular scheme will cause more harm than good.

Thank you for your consideration with this matter. If you have any questions for me regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Mann
State Representative
132nd Legislative District

Cc: Jim Buckheit, State Board of Education
Michael Carbone
Cathy Kim

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