

11TH DISTRICT
MICHAEL A. O'PAKE, Esq.
SENATE BOX 203011
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3011
TELEPHONE: (717) 787-8925
FAX: (717) 772-0578

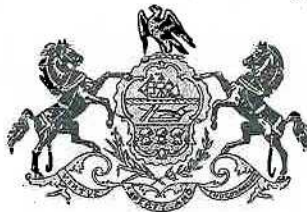
ROCKLAND PROFESSIONAL CENTER
1940 NORTH 13TH STREET, STE. 232
READING, PA 19604
TELEPHONE: (610) 929-2151
FAX: (610) 929-2576
E-MAIL: opake@pasenate.com
WEB SITE: www.senator-opake.com

REPLY TO:

Harrisburg Office

Democratic Whip

2583



Senate of Pennsylvania

December 12, 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. John P. Curtin, Superintendent of the Brandywine Heights Area School District, with respect to suggested amendments to the state's teacher certification regulations as proposed by the state Board of Education and currently before the IRRC.

According to Dr. Curtin, these proposed regulations "would make it more difficult to staff" the district's schools. A letter more thoroughly outlining Dr. Curtin's position is enclosed.

I trust you will carefully study the issues raised by Dr. Curtin in conjunction with any final determination of this matter. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

Michael A. O'Pake
Senator -- 11th District

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MINORITY CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
ETHICS
JUDICIARY
RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON
CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE AGENCY
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

RECEIVED

DEC 12 2006

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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 Curtin

RECEIVED
2006 DEC 13 PM 1:40
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Brandywine Heights Area School District

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE • 200 W. Weis Street, Tipton, PA 19562
Phone: (610) 682-5100 • Fax: (610) 682-5136 • E-Mail: johcur@bhasd.org



John P. Curtin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

November 28, 2006

The Honorable Michael A. O'Pake, Esq.
11th Senatorial District
Senate Box 203011
11 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3011

Dear Senator O'Pake,

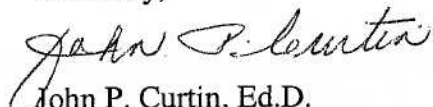
As Superintendent of the Brandywine Heights Area School District, I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2). These proposed amendments are currently before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Brandywine Heights Area School District is a small, rural school district in Berks County. These regulations, if adopted, would make it more difficult to staff our schools. They will 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. We have spent thousands of dollars and countless hours on staff development helping our teachers understand and effectively use differentiated instruction. These regulations will lead to departmentalizing disciplines at lower grades at a time when the curriculum experts are suggesting greater and more natural integration of content and Chapter 4 regulations state that "Every teacher is a Reading teacher". Additionally, if these regulations become law, small school districts like Brandywine Heights will have less flexibility to staff the three small elementary schools and it will lead to shortages in upper elementary certified and special education certified teachers.

With new limitations placed on school districts by the passage of Act 1 of 2006, funding for these new teachers will become a major issue and further drive taxpayers to revolt.

For these reasons, I urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49.2 regulations.

Sincerely,


John P. Curtin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JPC/cc

DEC 06 2006