

KATE M. HARPER, MEMBER

2583

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

RECEIVED

DEC 15 2006

PA. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION December 13, 2006

Mr. Justin Darcy
687 Eagle Ln
Lansdale, PA 19446

Re: Proposed change in regulations for PA teachers

Dear Mr. Darcy,

Thank you for taking the time to e-mail me recently regarding your opposition to regulation 49.13(b)(4)(i). As you know, this is a regulation regarding the training requirements of the Commonwealth's teachers. Specifically, it will require all Pennsylvania-certified education students to pass nine credits worth of classes that focus on preparing them to teach students with special needs. I appreciate your concerns that this will cause a much higher course load and may force students to sacrifice other important classes in order to graduate in a reasonable time.

This proposal is currently pending before the State Board of Education. Unfortunately, as a State Representative, I do not have jurisdiction over this proposed regulation. The Board will, however, be accepting comment from the public until December 25, 2006. I will be happy to forward your e-mail along to the Board, and suggest that you might consider contacting them separately as well. Comments may be sent to the following address:

Mr. James Buckheit
Executive Director
Pennsylvania State Board of Education
First Floor
333 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Thanks again for taking the time to write and make me aware of this issue. Please let me know if I may be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

Kate M. Harper
State Legislator
61st District of Pennsylvania

KMH/klm

cc: Mr. James Buckheit, State Board of Education

RECEIVED
2006 DEC 20 AM 10:03
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: <jmcdarcy@temple.edu>
To: <kharper@pahousegop.com>
Date: 12/8/2006 11:35:31 AM
Subject: 49.13(b)(4)(i)

Representative Harper,

Regarding 49.13(b)(4)(i), I would like to urge you to vote no. As a student of music education, I recommend that no more than 90 hours (equivalent of 3 credits) for instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities be addressed in the initial certification program and the remaining hours plus the 90 hours for English language learners be requirements for Instructional II certificates. This will ensure that we future teachers are competent in our main areas such as conducting and teaching the various instruments. With our curriculum already at the maximum credit levels per semester, we would have to sacrifice other, more pertinent classes for the sake of this new addition. Thankyou for your time and consideration regarding this issue.

Sincerely,
Justin Darcy