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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

January 26, 2007

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

The faculty of the School of Education at Philadelphia Biblical University would like to accept the invitation to express our continued concerns about the proposed split of the Pennsylvania Elementary Education certification into a Pre-school – 3<sup>rd</sup> certification and a 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> certification. We urge the State Board of Education to consider the following proposal:

Keep the present, well-respected K-6 Elementary Education program to allow for the breadth of developmental knowledge, content, and methodology necessary for understanding student needs. Allow K-6 Elementary Education majors to **add** a specialty in Early Childhood Pre-K – 3 to earn an Early Childhood certification or **add** a content area specialty in English, math, science, or social studies to earn a Middle School certification.

We believe that this proposal would not only produce highly qualified teachers for Early Childhood and Middle School due to the breadth of their training, but also address the additional concerns about teacher portability to other states and a potential shortage of 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> teachers.

We do appreciate the openness of the Pennsylvania Department of Education in considering the concerns of higher education teacher preparation institutions and giving us a voice in addressing the proposed Chapter 49-2 teacher certification standards. We are joined with you in one common goal – providing quality education for the children of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

*Dianne K. Alexander*

Dianne K. Alexander, EdD  
Chair, Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
Philadelphia Biblical University