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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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FEB 22 2007

PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

January 28, 2007

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

Re: CH. 49 Proposed Rulemaking

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

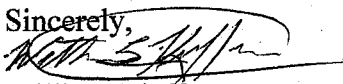
I had the opportunity to review the CH. 49 amendments to the proposed rulemaking. One section in particular caught my interest. Section 49.85(b) amends the requirement that instructional certificates follow new grade level limitations.

I like the idea to reorganize instructional certificates. Even though I feel that the new grade level limitations would help, I believe that teachers should be certified to teach a specific area, whether it is in the elementary or secondary setting. I feel that a teacher should be "highly qualified" by the ability to teach a particular subject not by the standards set by the government. Any teacher that is teaching multiple core subjects, at any educational level, may not be able to elaborate on a particular subject's topic if that subject is not one of their strengths. We do not see music teachers teaching math or physical education teachers teaching reading.

In regards to special education, I believe that special education teachers should be certified in specialized areas, such as working with autism or mental retardation. If there are specialized areas for occupational or physical therapists, there should be certification for other specialized areas as well. I believe it could improve education for students with a disability while providing them with specialized treatment and support.

If teachers were certified in one core subject or specialized area across educational settings, I believe the type of instruction would be at a quality level for students to learn.

Sincerely,



William Kieffer  
Special Education Teacher