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January 29, 2007

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

Dear Jim Buckheit:

I am concerned about the Proposed Rulemaking from The State Board of Education. The cost of the proposed rulemaking would be \$3.23 million, which will, of course, be passed on to the students. This may put many potential teachers onto another career path.

I am a Graduate Student from East Stroudsburg University. I hold a BS in Elementary Education. Currently my certificate covers kindergarten through sixth grade. With the new proposed rulemaking, I would have had to have chosen which grade levels I would like to concentrate on. When a person needs to choose between grade level cut offs for their certification you are actually limiting the flexibility of the use of the teachers. For example, if a school needs a third grade teacher, the only people who would be able to apply would be those who hold a certificate in Pre-K to Third grade.

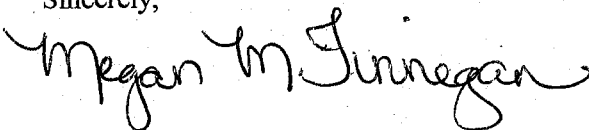
Part of the proposal is to make everyone dually certified in regular and special education, in fact to be marketable with these proposed changes a prospective teacher would need to be triple certified (preK-3, 4-6, and special education).

It also seems like there are many exceptions that the secretary has to over see. Along those lines each school entity is also responsible for the way things run within their school system. That also leads to different interpretation of the proposed rulemaking amendments. There just seems to be too many things that could lead to misinterpretations and in the end would make things more difficult.

I hope that you will seriously consider the impact that proposed rulemaking would have on our future teachers. This proposal will deter potential teachers from entering the field of education.

Something to think about: How does all of this help the children?

Sincerely,



Megan M. Finnegan  
Graduate Student at  
East Stroudsburg University