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January 30, 2007

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

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Jim Buckheit:

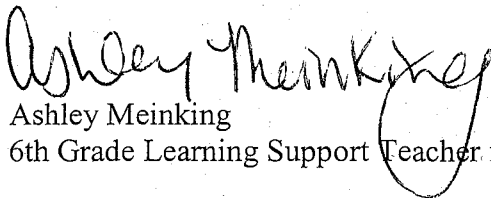
The purpose of this letter is to address the implications that Chapter 49-2 has in the field of education.

As you are aware, Pennsylvania will be changing the requirements of college students seeking a special education certificate. The state is proposing to split the special education degree into two parts as Pre-K-Grade 8 and Grades 7-12. College students seeking a special education certificate will also be required to attain a dual certificate with Early Childhood Education, Elementary/Middle, or Secondary content certificate.

The proposed guidelines will prepare teachers to teach in the areas outlined in the split of the certificate. The split will assure that new teachers are prepared to teach in specific content areas as well as having a better understanding of childhood development.

The proposed guidelines for attaining a special education certificate are rigorous. I am concerned that college students will not complete the proposed dual degree within the proposed four years. This may lead students to change majors, which allow them to graduate within a four year time limit. Therefore, the field of special education, a much needed area, will be diminished.

Sincerely,



Ashley Meinking

6th Grade Learning Support Teacher for the Pocono Mountain School District