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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

asguido@verizon.net

February 15, 2007

Representative Dan Surra  
27 E. Park Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801

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Dear Mr. Surra:

Recently, it has come to my attention that, for example, Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft, would not be qualified to teach computer science nor would Jack Welsh, former CEO of General Electric, be qualified to teach business in our public schools. On the other hand, a 22 year old so-called teacher college graduate would be qualified.

This was brought to my attention by my daughter, Mary, who has accounting and MBA degrees from Duquesne University. After receiving her MBA degree, Mary worked for Hughes Electronics, Corporate Express and Duquesne Light in management positions.

Mary became a stay-at-home mom after her daughter, Hannah, was born. Tragically, Hannah was born with spinal bifida and as a result needed ongoing care which could not be provided by child care centers.

After Hannah obtained school age, Mary decided to apply for a teaching job in the local high school. Despite her education and work experience, she was told that she was not qualified to teach because she had not only the completed required methods courses but also the business curriculum designed for business teachers.

This, of course, was shocking. Under current laws and regulations, a fresh education major is qualified to teach but others, regardless of their education and career experiences are not so qualified.

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In my view, such laws and regulations are one of the reasons for the general poor performance of our public schools, unions being the biggest problem.

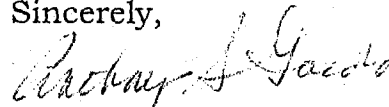
In Pennsylvania, we should take advantage of those who want to teach and have the education and career experiences to be effective teachers.

Accordingly, I would urge you to take up this cause to change these archaic laws despite the obvious opposition of the unions to such a potential change. Our young people deserve better. The welfare of our community, state and nation are dependent upon good and effective public schools.

I know other states permit those who have not completed an education curriculum to teach based on their education and career experiences. I believe they would be more effective teachers than a recent graduate.

I would appreciate your help and comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anthony S. Guido  
P.O. Box 487  
DuBois, PA 15801