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November 15, 2006

Mr. Kim Kaufman  
IRRC Executive Director  
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James R. Weaver, *President*  
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Dear Mr. Kaufman:

I am writing in support of proposed regulations recently submitted to you by the State Board of Education. Known as Chapter 49-2, these proposed regulations would change the way that elementary and special education teaching certificates are structured. Early childhood education will be recognized as a specialized area of certification for the first time in Pennsylvania.

Dr. James Fogarty and the other State Board members who served on the Committee that developed these proposed regulations conducted a very open and thorough process. The final product that they have sent to you is the result of many months of meetings, discussions, and revisions to address concerns raised by the many and diverse stakeholder groups involved. The State Board took steps to correct problems or to insert provisions into the regulations that will provide "safety valves" should problems arise.

PSEA supports the work of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education in this area, and we support Ch. 49-2.

We will appreciate your consideration of our position when you review these proposed regulations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James R. Weaver  
President

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*To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.*

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