

Buckheit, James

From: Patricia Kolencik [pkolencik@clarion.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 1:32 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRC@irrc.state.pa.us
Cc: jflynn@velocity.net; hornung@pitt.edu
Subject: Chapter 49.2

RECEIVED

DEC 5 2006

**PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

The purpose of this email communication is to voice my objections to the proposed Chapter 49.2 regulations. As an assistant professor in the Education Department at Clarion University, I strongly believe that the proposed chapter 49.2 reform will have a definite negative impact on all of the teacher preparation programs at the state universities and an even more dreadful negative impact on future teacher candidates for several reasons. First, the elimination of the current PA elementary certification (K-6) will make Pennsylvania's teacher-candidates much less marketable should they not be able to find employment in Pennsylvania. Second, the new elementary certification will narrow the focus of teacher certification, which may create a shortage of educators prepared to teach in grades 4-8 as well as cause staffing problems for school boards and elementary administrators in PA due to the lack of certification flexibility. I am also concerned about the "grandfather" clause for teachers with existing certifications and allowing school administrators to "selectively" revise certification requirements on a case by case basis. My question is, "why have certification regulations at all if you're willing to let administrators selectively choose who can teach at that level and who cannot?" Third, the quality of teacher preparation programs in the SSHE institutions could be seriously damaged. How can one prepare a quality teacher-candidate with the mandates about diverse learners in 120 credits? Quality in teacher training is of the essence if Pennsylvania to produce highly qualified teachers of NCLB. I strongly object to the 120 credit limit. We, as teacher educators, cannot possibly produce quality highly qualified teachers in 120 credits. I thoroughly agree with the mandated extra emphasis on courses in teaching diverse learners, but the 120 credit limit must be increased.

I urge you to reconsider these regulations that will have the above mentioned negative impact on future teachers.

Patricia L. Kolencik, Ed.D.

 Dr. Patricia Kolencik
 Clarion University of Pennsylvania
 Education Dept.
 210 Stevens Hall
 Clarion PA 16214
 Telephone: 814.393.2678
 pkolencik@clarion.edu

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 DEC -7 AM 10:52

RECEIVED

2583



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 5, 2006

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 DEC -7 AM 10:52

RECEIVED

Dr. Patricia Kolencik
Education Department
210 Stevens Hall
Clarion University
Clarion, PA 16214

Dear Dr. Kolencik:

Thank you for your letter received by the State Board of Education on December 5, 2006 regarding the proposed Chapter 49 Certification of Professional Personnel regulations.

Your letter is considered official public comment. As such copies are shared with each member of the State Board of Education, the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees and Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). Your letter is also considered a public document that may be publicly released upon request.

The Regulatory Review Act provides that notice regarding final regulations be provided to those who make official comment if requested. If you would like to receive a copy of the final-form regulation when it is submitted for final approval by the legislative committees and IRRC, please submit a written request to me at the address listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Buckheit".

Jim Buckheit
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the State Board
Senator James Rhoades
Senator Raphael Musto
Representative Jess Stairs
Representative James Roebuck, Jr.
IRRC