

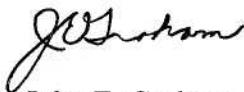
#2583

Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
Page 2
November 27, 2006

Lastly, requiring dual certification for special education certification will most definitely exacerbate the current short supply of special education teachers, particularly due to the credit requirements for dual certification. Furthermore, as a dean, I am very much concerned about the availability of candidates whom I could hire with the expertise needed to teach in this area. Even now it is difficult to find qualified candidates; the new requirements will cause serious staffing issues.

I do appreciate the work that has been put into examining Chapter 49-2 in order to make improvements in teacher preparation that will ultimately benefit students in PA classrooms. However, I also feel that some of the mandates will generate more harm than good and I respectfully ask that you give further consideration to addressing some of the concerns I have addressed.

Sincerely,



John E. Graham, Ed.D., Dean
School of Education and Social Sciences
412-262-8228
FAX: 412-397-2477