

2583

December 9, 2006

Mr. James Buckheit, Executive Director
State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2006

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing to support the proposed changes in Pennsylvania teacher certifications as outlined in Chapter 49-2. I am currently a senior and I am a Early Childhood Education (ECE) major at West Chester University. The curriculum in the Early Childhood major uniquely prepares students to teach children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. In our ECE courses, we focus on the developmental and educational needs of young children. All of our field experiences are in pre-primary and primary classrooms and provide us with opportunities to practice and perfect our teaching skills. When I graduate, I know that I will be highly qualified to teach children in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

Despite this specialized preparation in early childhood education, many school districts refuse to hire individuals with ECE certification in favor of hiring persons with Elementary Education certification. The Elementary certification covers seven grade levels which means these individuals have less in-depth knowledge of pre-primary and primary grade learners. Therefore, they are likely to be less qualified for these positions than those who have an ECE certificate. I strongly support the separation of the Early Childhood (pre-kindergarten - 3rd grade) and the Elementary (4th - 8th grade) certifications.

I also support the increased requirements for preparation in teaching students with disabilities and English language learners. In my field experiences, I have encountered both children with disabilities and those who speak a language other than English. While I'm learning and getting some experience with these students, more coursework would be beneficial.

In conclusion, I urge the State Board of Education to adopt the changes in the teacher certification requirements as specified in Chapter 49-2. These changes will help Pennsylvania to meet the federal mandate for a highly qualified teacher in every classroom by 2014.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie McLaughlin

1514 PLYMOUTH BOULEVARD
PLYMOUTH MEETING 19462

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Kris Ewan

1514 PLYMOUTH BOULEVARD
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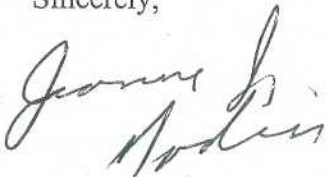
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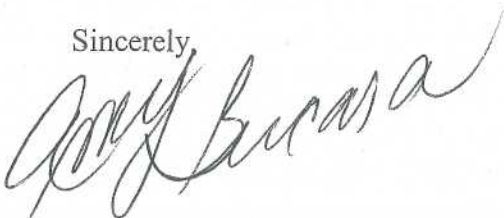
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Sincerely,



3376 VISITATION ROAD
COLLEGEVILLE 19426

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Harrisburg, PA 17126

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Sincerely,

Lindsay Marie Reitz
Lindsay Marie Reitz

1035 PEACEFUL LANE
HATFIELD 19440

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD
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December 12, 2006

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State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

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In conclusion, I urge the State Board of Education to adopt the changes in the teacher certification requirements as specified in Chapter 49-2. These changes will help Pennsylvania to meet the federal mandate for a highly qualified teacher in every classroom by 2014.

Sincerely,

Andrea Serrao

185. Andrea Serrao

1221 BROWNING COURT
LANSDALE PA 19446

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 DEC 20 AM 10:03

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2583

December 7, 2006

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Board of Education
333 Market Street
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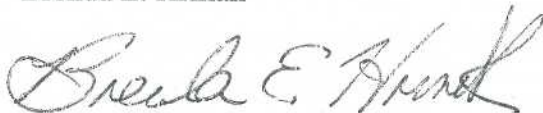
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In conclusion, I urge the State Board of Education to adopt the changes in the teacher certification requirements as specified in Chapter 49-2. These changes will help Pennsylvania to meet the federal mandate for a highly qualified teacher in every classroom by 2014. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brenda E. Hrinak



23 KNOLL ROAD
COATESVILLE 19320

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Sincerely,



Lisa LaRocco

174 SHELBORNE ROAD
HAVERTOWN 19083

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