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December 12, 2006

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

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

Dear. Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing to you on behave of supporting the proposed changes in Pennsylvania teacher certifications as outlined in Chapter 49-2. I am currently a senior at West Chester University majoring in Early Childhood Education. In the Early Childhood curriculum we are exclusively prepared to teach the students between pre-kindergarten through third grade. We focus on the developmental and educational needs of young children throughout out ECE courses. We have many field experiences in the pre-primary classrooms as well as the primary grades. These experiences present us with opportunities to practice and perfect out teaching skills. I am graduating in May of 2007, I known I will be highly qualified to teach children in the pre-kindergarten through third grade.

Despite this specialized preparation in early childhood education, as I fill out many applications to teach I have found that many schools refuse to hire a person with ECE certification. Most schools are in favor of a teacher having an Elementary Education certification. Elementary certification covers seven grade levels which means that they have less-depth knowledge of pre-primary and primary grades learners. As a result, they are likely to be less qualified for these positions. I strongly support the separation of Early childhood Education (pre-kindergarten – third grade) and the elementary (fourth-eighth grade) certifications.

In conclusion, I urge the State Board of Education to take on 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,

Bryn Swain

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WESTCHESTER PA 19382

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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