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Buckheit, James

From: Keith, Brian [brian.keith@anc-gc.org]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2006 3:53 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Chap49-2

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

BRYN ATHYN COLLEGE

December 15, 2006

State Board of Education
 Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
 333 Market Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Chapter 49-2 legislation that is under consideration by the Pennsylvania legislature.

Bryn Athyn College offers state certification in education through Holy Family University in Philadelphia. While I agree that teachers need better preparation to meet the diverse needs of students, I question whether the approach taken by Chapter 49-2 will accomplish this goal. There are also several negative outcomes likely to result if this legislation is passed:

- Chapter 49-2 elementary teacher certifications will narrow the focus of the preparation and could create gaps in teachers' abilities to deal with student developmental needs.
- Chapter 49-2 could result in a shortage of educators prepared to teach in upper elementary (grades 4-8) since many students initially prefer working in the primary grades.
- Chapter 49-2 will limit the portability of PA certified elementary teachers. Many students attending our College intend to practice teaching in other states that do not recognize this new type of certification.
- Chapter 49-2 could discourage enrollment in teacher preparation institutions, since students will

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be required to attend college for an additional year in order to complete program requirements.

I would urge state legislatures to vote against Chapter 49-2 and to appoint an independent commission to study the issue in more detail and make appropriate recommendations.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Keith
President

12/15/2006