

Buckheit, James

From: Buckheit, James
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2006 8:50 AM
To: 'Louise Kaczmarek'
Subject: RE: Comments on Chapter 49

State Board of Education
 333 Market Street, First Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333
 December 26, 2006

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 2006 DEC 27 PM 2:13
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Dr. Kaczmarek:

Thank you for your letter received by the State Board of Education on December 26, 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 above.

Sincerely,

Jim Buckheit

Executive Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Louise Kaczmarek [mailto:kaczm+k@pitt.edu]
Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2006 8:23 AM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Cc: Sarah Shoffler; Andrea N. Algatt
Subject: Comments on Chapter 49

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Pennsylvania Early Intervention State Interagency Coordinating Council in support of the Chapter 49 regulations.

As a Council, we are interested in the youngest children with disabilities and their families who receive early Intervention services in Pennsylvania. The changes to Chapter 49 represent significant improvements to teacher certification in Pennsylvania. In particular, we support the new requirements that require all teachers to be better prepared to address the needs of diverse learners, especially those with disabilities, as well as those provisions that require special educators to have better preparation in basic instructional methods. In addition, the age-related modifications in the certification structure of basic and special education, especially the elimination of the overlap between

elementary and early childhood education, will permit teacher training programs to better specialize their training efforts. We expect that these changes taken together will allow teacher training programs to focus more specifically than ever before on methods and intervention strategies that have been effective for children with disabilities under five years and on the creation of inclusive preschool environments that serve the needs of all children. These changes will benefit young children in early intervention and their families. Finally, as young children with disabilities move into school age programs, school teachers, under this proposal, will be much better equipped to provide inclusive programming. Families of children in early intervention and school-aged special education will benefit tremendously from these positive changes and bring us closer to creating a seamless system of education for all children.

We applaud the Board for supporting these critical changes in teacher certification and look forward to the realization of the benefits that they will promote for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

Louise A. Kaczmarek, Ph.D.

Personnel Preparation Representative

Pennsylvania Early Intervention State Interagency Coordinating Council