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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I strongly oppose several of the qualification/standards proposed by the PA State Board of Education, Chapter 14, Special Education Regulations, in particular the requirement for 2 years of post-secondary education or an associate degree. I have been a paraprofessional for 35 years and I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Although my college education has contributed to a solid academic background, I have found that on the job training, and the many hours of training offered by my employer (IU08) each year have contributed much more to my ability to perform well as a paraprofessional. Just this summer I will attend approximately 20 hours of training provided by IU08, which will enhance my skills in working with the special needs students at my job site.

Furthermore, I feel that formal state testing could not address all of the many and varied areas in which we work with children of all exceptionalities. If testing is required, it should be administered by each district as it applies to the exceptional students in that district or intermediate unit.

As a point of interest: For the past several years I have been PRIVILEGED to work with students whose educational requirements include toilet training and very basic communication needs – a very important job which does not call upon my college educational background.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on the proposed standards.

Sincerely,

Karen Stickler

Karen Stickler