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Dear Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director

I appreciate the opportunity for public input. I have several thoughts related to Chapter 14.

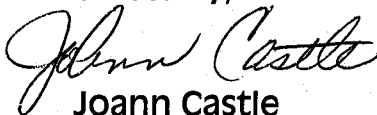
Lowering the Speech caseload to 50 from 65 for school age students will assist in our ability to attract and maintain staff. It is getting more challenging to fill vacancies in speech. The suggested change better reflects a manageable number in terms of student contacts, caseload, travel and working in with the school staff.

There are a multitude of services being provided to students with autism. I would recommend that with the draft language in Chapter 14, IDEA, and supports we receive from PDE/PaTTAN that there is no need for additional safeguards for this specific population (evaluations and discipline enhancements).

I support the incorporation of language that gives the school entity the ability to set policy on classroom visitations.

Working for school districts through the intermediate unit I see the value of the continuum of services and appreciate that the draft language speaks to this being incorporated in the special education plans. We hear stories of staff that are told that they are not allow to offer our services due to the cost or other factors. Having the continuum in the special education plan would give IEP team members information that they should have that would allow for them to be able to correct misinformation on what is available if it meets the needs of the student.

Sincerely,



Joann Castle