

July 22, 2007

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

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Mr Jim Buckheit  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Board of Directors  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg PA 17126

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY

State Board of Directors

Dear Sir:

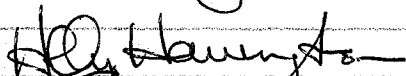
I am currently Treasurer of the Bangor Area ESP and I represent the paraprofessionals in our local. We have concerns about the proposed legislation suggested in Chapter 4. If passed, it is my hope that our para's will meet the "rigorous standard of quality" required since our district currently considers them "highly qualified". Our paraprofessionals attendance at the different in-services and trainings supplied by our district and their many years of experience working with our students should count for something.

As far as the requirement of a two-year degree for new hires goes, the current rate of starting pay with our district does not or will not attract new hires to apply for a part time position without benefits. The pool of candidates who would be eligible and interested in the vacancies will be greatly reduced. We need to meet the needs of our students, but these needs will not be met if the vacancies are not filled.

I would recommend eliminating the post secondary degree requirement be deleted.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely



136 Ackermanville Road

Bangor PA 18013

Treasurer, Bangor Area ESP