

July 23, 2007

Hori Arag
P.O. Box 185

2618

Robertsdale, PA 19067

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

It is of great concern to me as a paraprofessional with the changes of the proposal of those working with special education students.

The district in which I am employed doesn't recognize the Paraprofessional Program. This is an administrative, as well as a school board decision. The district did however offer support staff working in the classroom only, the opportunity to take an intermediate test which covered all teaching areas. If they passed this test, they are recognized as "highly qualified". This testing was completed at the district's expense.

It concerns me in the aspect that it is unfair to our staff who have dedicated their lives to helping children all of these years. There are very few, if any trainings offered to expand the training of our support staff. Although, I guess the district is suffice with passing the test. (Highly qualified). With the new proposed regulations, there is a concern that the support staff will not be able to advance in their careers. We will LOSE jobs due to proposed requirements if they are imposed.

I enjoy working greatly with our teaching and support staff. This will greatly affect all those involved with education, especially the children.

Who deserves anything greater? Your child, grandchild or mine? They all do!! We are instructing the future of our country. Let's look out for them. Please think long and hard before these proposed regulations concerning special education students and how it will affect us.

Sincerely

Hori Arag