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107 AUG -2 AM 9:54  
NONPUNISHABLE  
PENNSYLVANIA

As a Speech Therapist for the Lincoln Intermediate Unit I am writing to you with my concerns about newly proposed language for Chapter 14.

I strongly urge you to maintain current timelines for evaluations stating "60 school days". Making the change to calendar days would make it extremely difficult for any working therapist to comply with the law.

I urge you to recognize the expertise of current instructional paraprofessionals and the continuous training they have received that allows them to be considered qualified. If educational requirements are increased the districts will have to pay much more to find qualified paraprofessionals.

When considering caseloads I recommend a number lower than 65 for speech therapists. In reality many therapists carry caseloads higher than required in the current law. Reducing the maximum to 50 has been suggested.

School psychologists must be involved in Response to Intervention. They carry important knowledge valuable to the process.

I believe that anytime a regular education teacher is instructing a class with 50% or more students with disabilities a special education teacher should be in the classroom to assist the students.

Within the behavior section of Chapter 14 I appreciate the detailed description of what is and what is not a restraint.

In Section 14.133 (g) I would like clarification on the term "medical personnel." Does that include the school nurse?

Those of us working in the schools ask that you remember that every demand placed on us will be performed during an already full school day. We do our best to help the children.

Sincerely,  
Anne C. Loeffler  
Speech Therapist