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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JUL 31 2007

PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

Mr. James Buckheit  
PA State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

As President of our local ESPA, I am writing to express my concern over the suggested new requirements for our paraprofessionals. Our staff is always involved in district inservice activities as well as inservice activities through PATTAN and our local IU. They are very qualified through their years of experience and continuing education. To expect them to obtain college credits serves no purpose and will not provide better instruction for our children. I am also concerned about the impact of new paraprofessionals needing 2 years post secondary while existing paras do not. Most paras do not make the money necessary for college courses.

Please consider the needs of our current employees prior to voting on these amendments. Our school district can and does provide educational opportunities to keep our paras "highly qualified".

Sincerely,

Sally Schwister