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To whom it may concern,

I have concerns regarding the proposed changes for Special Education paraprofessionals. I work in a poor district that can not afford to pay extra for associate degree personnel.

As a current paraprofessional I have taken a test to be highly qualified also I attend numerous inservices each year. I understand this according to the proposal will no longer be enough.

If this proposal does come about I am concerned about being able to pay for 2 yrs of college with the salary we make. The other concern is how we would complete 2 yrs college and work full time at the same time because the regulation call for all current paraprofessionals will complete the college by 2010 which is only 2 1/2 years away.

I would appreciate your reconsideration on this proposal. I see many negatives on this proposal as paraprofessionals support the teachers and help the students. We do not teach alone.

Thank you
Joyce M Shade