

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2007

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

2618

Janet M. Valasek
445 Spring Street
New Kensington, PA 15068-5829
August 23, 2007

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

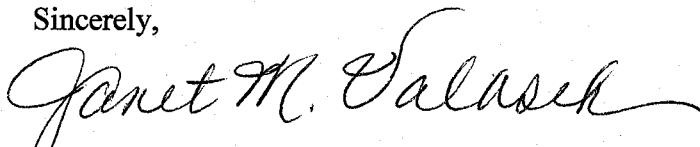
Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing to you in regard to the PA State Board proposed changes for Paraprofessionals. I work as a Personal Care Assistant/Paraprofessional in a Life Skills classroom with students ages 18-21. I work very closely with the teacher in this classroom and if I have any questions or concerns, I ask for her assistance immediately. I feel a test does not capture all of the content area locations I am assigned when assisting my student. I feel it is not important that a Personal Care Assistant/Paraprofessional memorize all of the subject matter. Instead a Personal Care Assistant/Paraprofessional can support the student with supplementary tools and services to advance their education.

I have successfully completed the ESP Paraprofessional Portfolio Program with High Honors. I will also be attending a two year Paraprofessional Video Conference program which consists of five Video Conferences per year for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years to receive my Special Education Competency Certificate.

Finally, with there already being a shortage of Special Education Personal Care Assistants/Paraprofessionals, if these requirements are imposed, the shortage will be much greater. Thank you for taking an interest in my position.

Sincerely,



Janet M. Valasek
Personal Care Assistant/Paraprofessional

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
RELATION COMMISSION

2007 AUG 29 AM 9:17

RECEIVED