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Katherine Mulcahy  
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November 3, 2007

Mr. Karl R. Girton  
Chairperson  
Pennsylvania State Dept. of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Girton,

I would like to express my support for the proposed changes to Chapter 14. As the parent of a child with special needs, I am especially in favor of the adoption of the Oberti standards for LRE and for the provision of positive behavioral supports for the children who need them.

My family has done a great deal of advocacy on behalf of my daughter, Melissa, so that she can attend school in the general education classroom with appropriate aids and services. At times, we have argued for very basic supports, meeting a great deal of resistance from the "experts" in our school district. We are grateful that, thanks to your endorsement of the changes in Chapter 14, other families may be spared the long and often adversarial process of convincing educators to act in the best interests of every child, utilizing those practices which are proven by research to be of benefit to both disabled and non-disabled children.

The success of our children depends on having safeguards like the proposed revision of Chapter 14 in place to protect their rights under the IDEA. Thank you again for your efforts in ensuring a free, appropriate public education for all of Pennsylvania's students.

Thank you,

*Katherine Mulcahy*

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