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December 4, 2007

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Review Commission,

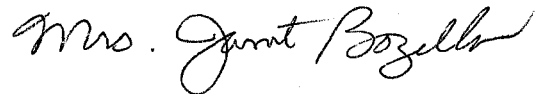
I am writing in regards to the new Chapter 14 special education regulations. I am requesting that you reconsider the speech therapist's caseload, by setting the maximum at no higher than 50.

I am currently a speech therapist, traveling between three buildings in our school district, with a current caseload of 58 students. I am finding it increasingly difficult to maintain this caseload due to the strain I am facing with multiple contacts for specific students. With a caseload over 50, student contact is usually only possible once a week. Many of my younger students are not making expected progress because of scheduling constraints. These young children should be given every opportunity to be successful, as they are the most impressionable in their younger years. Facts from the National Center for Education Statistics, July 2007 states that out of the 4.1% of all kindergartners that received special education services, the most commonly identified primary disability was a speech or language impairment (2.3%).

Due to the enormous increase in paperwork, which is ultimately the speech therapist's responsibility, it is very difficult to manage a caseload of more than 50 students. If the caseload is set at 65, as is proposed, that will ultimately mean 65 IEP's, 65 evaluations and reevaluations, 65 progress reports four times a year, etc.

As a school speech therapist with over 30 years experience, I have witnessed first hand the increasing demands that have been placed on the speech therapist. Unfortunately, when a therapist is required to service a high number of students, it is ultimately the children who are affected. Please take the school age child's needs into consideration by limiting the caseload size to 50, which would be the same numbers used in early intervention.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Janet Bozella  
Speech Therapist