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December 18, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Kim Kaufman, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

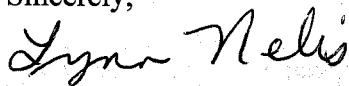
Dear Mr. Kaufman,

I am writing to express my concern about the caseload numbers for speech/language pathologists in our public schools. Please consider setting the maximum caseload number for speech language pathologists in the public schools at 50, and no higher. This is the maximum number for the early intervention programs.

After working 35 years in the public schools, I recently retired from McKeesport Area School District. Caseload size has always been too high for speech language pathologists. The large caseload size can negatively impact our service delivery model. The severity of our speech/language problems has increased. Our moderate to severe special education students are returning to their home schools. Early intervention students are entering kindergarten with evaluation reports and individualized education plans that need immediate attention. The incidence of autism and other pervasive developmental disorders has greatly increased in our public schools. Students with communication devices may require extensive training, and speech language pathologists need to program the communication devices. The days of large group therapy sessions for articulation problems are long gone.

It has become very difficult to meet the needs of our students with speech/language impairments due to our caseload size and increased job responsibilities. Please consider lowering the caseload size to 50. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lynn Nelis