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From: Michael J. Connolly [mconnolly@cjdjlaw.com]
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2008 9:46 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Adoption of Chapter 16 Regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear IRRC Members,

My name is Michael Connolly, and I am an attorney in Pennsylvania who has been practicing in the area of education law for approximately ten years. During that time, I have represented both school districts and parents in a variety of issues, including the provision of appropriate gifted education programs. I am writing today in support of the adoption of the pending final form Chapter 16 regulations. Some of the more significant changes to Chapter 16 include cyclical, on-site monitoring, and more frequent monitoring when necessary, the development of a procedure for auditing gifted programs and criteria to evaluate that procedure, and the development of a procedure for parents to file a complaint, the Pennsylvania Department of Education to present the findings of such a complaint to a school district, a process for the district to respond, and a resolution process, which may include corrective action plans.

Based upon my experience practicing in this area of the law, I believe that the changes made to the regulations represent substantial improvements to law, and will benefit parents, educators, and most importantly, gifted students in Pennsylvania. Thank you for considering my comments.

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