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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
By email: [jbuckheit@state.pa.us](mailto:jbuckheit@state.pa.us)

RE: Gifted Education Regulations

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to § 16.41 of the regulations for Special Education for Gifted Students, 22 PA. CODE CH. 16, published in 37 Pa.B. 4872 (Sept. 8, 2007), available at <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol37/37-36/1654.html>. This amendment would reduce the maximum caseload of the gifted class teacher from 75 to 60 and reduce the maximum class size from 25 to 20.

I strongly support the proposed reductions and urge you to adopt these amendments. I am the mother of a child who has been in the Pennsylvania gifted education program for a number of years. I assume that all parents would prefer to have smaller classes for their children and thus you may be tempted to discount my support for this amendment. But I wanted to let you know that I have had personal experience of gifted teachers who are carrying the maximum caseload and gifted teachers who are not. Last year was the first time that my son's gifted teacher was right at the maximum caseload and there was a definite difference in her ability to provide feedback to the students (and their parents) on their projects. Given the nature of the work, 75 is simply too many students to effectively manage in a gifted program, especially when teachers are split among schools, as is often the case.

I assume that you have heard all the arguments in favor of gifted education and that I do not need to repeat them here. I will simply say that I endorse these arguments in favor of gifted education – investing in these students is not only good for them personally, but it is good for Pennsylvania and its economy. It is an investment in the future and well worth the money it will take to reduce the caseload and class size of these teachers.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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