

#2635

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Gelnett, Wanda B.**

From: Schalles, Scott R.
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2007 7:22 AM
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.
Subject: FW: gifted program-concerned parent

Public comment on 2635

-----Original Message-----

From: Christine Kopacz [mailto:cak152@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 11:06 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us; lbaker@pasen.gov; info@phyllismundy.com; Schalles, Scott R.; musto@pasenate.com; jyudichak@pa.house.net**Cc:** nicolesap@msn.com**Subject:** gifted program-concerned parent

To those this may concern,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the direction that the lawmakers are taking the State's special education programs. I am a parent of a gifted child. I am also a parent of a child with other strengths and weaknesses. I have, and will do everything in my power to help my daughters succeed in their lives, based on their strengths, abilities, and passions. I feel that it is a detriment to our future society to handicap our gifted children by increasing class sizes, combining gifted children with students of much less curiosity and desire to learn, decreasing program acceptance requirements, and increasing case loads.

Gifted individuals have been historically important components to the growth and strengthening of our current government, healthcare, and society. We need our society to start looking at these students as future leaders of America. They can not be effective and beneficial in those roles without the proper training and education.

Anyone who has met a gifted child will realize that they are extremely curious. That curiosity is a special gift. Where would we be if someone of gifted intelligence was not encouraged to challenge the use of leaches to cure illness, or launch a space shuttle?

Class sizes need to be kept to a minimum because gifted children are so curious, and interested in 'knowing stuff' that an overcrowded class room discourages the open dialogue that children have with their instructor, that feeds and encourages that need.

I noticed that peer pressure has only increased over the years. The fact that the gifted students are grouped with other gifted students at Wyoming Valley West, allows them to be themselves, be competitive, and not be criticized for being 'smart'.

Persons hired to monitor the development of these student should be given a reasonable case load, limit of 60. Please allow our children to be watched over. There are so many things out there to throw our children off track. Why would we ever decrease the amount of persons protection that they receive?

I hope that you take these views into consideration when determining the guidelines of our very special gifted program at Wyoming Valley West,

Thank you for your time,

10/9/2007

Christine Kopacz

10/9/2007