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From: msukonik@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 6:57 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Final Form of Chapter16

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear IRRC:

I am a parent with a M.Ed. I have a son who was previously enrolled in a private boys school and we decided to move him back to our local public school for his 8th grade through high school years. Despite, a wonderful reputation and some fine teachers and administrators, in the middle school years you get what you pay for in terms of challenging curriculum. The private school curriculum was much more demanding and engaging. Bright children need to be challenged or you will lose them. Our son was qualified for a GIEP in elementary school and we thought that the 1 year before high school it would not be necessary to put it in place. We were wrong. His grades began to dive and he stated. "Mom, I have to get out of here it is way too easy." Yes, I have the money to move my son if I need to do so, but how about all of those wonderful hard working parents who have no choices and experience the same things with their children that we did with our son- BOREDOM. The process was long, anxiety ridden, and difficult. Had it not been for 2 teachers who really saw the need for our son to be pulled out of the regular classroom we would have been doomed. Given his apathy with the curriculum, placement elsewhere would have been equally challenging. Will's IQ is in the mid 130's. His testing using WISC-IV punished him for Working Memory and Processing Speed (ridiculous) and we were able to make our score using cognitive ability alone with a GAI. The length of time to place our son in Gifted almost cost us an entire school year.

The improvements to Gifted regulations are imperative if this country is to educate its youth. The focus should be including children based on cognitive ability who can benefit from an enrichment to their curriculum. It should be INCLUSIVE, not exclusive. Forms and information should be readily available to all parents, not just those who know the law and have taken the time to get a M.Ed. If we are to decrease drop out rates, especially with rates high among boys, we need to address Gifted educational needs especially in the middle school years. Please take the time to think about the children of the United States of America. The proposed regulations are just what is needed. I know because I have just lived through it. Currently, I am trying to assist a young mother who has a highly intelligent daughter and very little money. Her district is not being honest with her and if we did not know each other it would be all over for her daughter at this point. \$25,000 in the middle school years buys you the better education. There are smart children not getting what they need in our public schools, stuck in classrooms that teach to the middle. We can make intelligent informed changes - God Bless America.

Very sincerely,
 Peggy Sukonik

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