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Honorable Dominic Pileggi  
Senate Majority Leader  
350 Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203009  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3009  
Fax: 717-783-7490  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

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2009 SEP 23 AM 9:52

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Honorable Senator Pileggi,

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, leaders of the budget negotiations specifically (Senators Corman, Costa, and Representatives Civera, and Evans) received a request from PDE, an Act 146 waiver, in rolling over \$6.8 million from last year to this year. When a dept. rolls funding over from a previous year, it is my understanding that it is not reflected in the budget. In addition, there is \$5.8 million in accounts payable....so right now, the Administration has already over \$12 million dedicated to the development of the Keystone Exams and this is outside of the current state budget. My point is, there is money dedicated for the exams right now. but its not inclusive or contained in the upcoming budget....its being rolled over from last year's budget and will not be reflected in the final negotiated state budget which still allows the Administration to proceed forward with the development process of the Keystone Exams despite the existence of HR 456 with a 161 co-sponsors which is impatiently waiting to be moved out of committee by House Education Chairman Roebuck. A good question is to ask "why" that is, especially in light of the fact there are several tax increases to fund 09-10 spending? Pennsylvania taxpayers and school board members would be interested to know the answers to these questions.

While most of the public may be unaware and clueless about this procedure of rolling over money from one year to another, and it not being reflected in the current expenditures and/or current state budget negotiations, I am writing on behalf of all the school board members and administrators from Western Pennsylvania who are aware, and to request that you insert specific language in the budget agreement that would address both the funding of, and the authority to establish graduation requirements, in a manner strong enough to stop the administration from circumventing it. In past years, there has been nothing to preclude the Administration from taking money from one line item and utilizing it for another. This circumvention has to stop once and for all.

It's no secret to the public at large that the Administration is intentionally delaying the forward movement of HR 456 from reaching a vote. Furthermore, it is no secret that the votes are there, 80% of statewide constituents are opposed, the IRRC is going to make a ruling on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and yet, this Administration keeps on circumventing the people, the processes, and laws (moratoriums) to move forward

with this agenda. Please preserve the integrity of the process of establishing statewide graduation requirements and expending funds only by an act of the General Assembly as actions speak louder than words. As demonstrated when the Governor's administration disregarded not only the regulatory moratorium but also the public's trust. Their actions related to this matter demonstrated while they may respect the legislature's usefulness, they don't respect their authority.

Pennsylvanians will support leadership that respects and supports the rights of parents and taxpayers and one which supports sound educational practices and principles to Pennsylvania's schools. May you have the continued courage to do so.

Thank you for your help and best regards,

Kimberly D. Geyer

Mars Research & Retrieval Services Policy Analyst  
Mars Area School Board President  
451 Denny Road  
Valencia, PA 16059  
Adams Township, Butler County  
724-799-1195  
[marsrrservices@zoominternet.net](mailto:marsrrservices@zoominternet.net)  
[www.marsrrservices.com](http://www.marsrrservices.com)

cc: Senator Joseph Scamati, Senate President Pro Tempore  
Senator Jake Corman, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Jay Costa, Minority Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Majority Leader Representative Todd Eachus  
Speaker of the House Representative Keith McCall  
Representative Dwight Evans, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
Representative Mario Civera, Minority Chairman, House Appropriations  
Committee