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Rec'd
10/20

9:17

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA, 17101
Attn: Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli
10/19/09

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

We are an employer of over 300 people in northern Pennsylvania. We have seen the quality of education in our workforce slowly erode over the past couple decades. As a result we need to see a shift in caliber that our education system provides. There is also a need to provide a greater emphasis that a student meets a higher level of standards. Testing standards need to be implemented by our department of education prove that a person is competent. The student needs to demonstrate a minimum level of understanding of the subject matter. Our education system has evolved to a system that relies on the volume of students graduated, not their ability to demonstrate competency. The following are guidelines that should be incorporated.

- Testing should be randomized and given by other than the teacher of the subject to eliminate training to pass a test
- Count for one-third of a student's final grade in a subject, enough to be consequential, but addressing the concern this was an "all-or-nothing" test
- Require remediation in the subject area a student failed, with opportunities to re-take the test, BEFORE graduation
- Allow use of state designed exams, locally designed exams approved by a state/local board, or alternative methods to prove proficiency in a subject, such as projects, to answer the "one size doesn't fit all" concern
- Replace the 11th grade PSSA exams, thus REDUCING testing time by 18 hours, or three instructional days, answering the excessive testing concern
- Be given as end-of-course exams, rather than at a specified time, to best measure mastery of the subject
- Allow students to test out of courses by proving proficiency earlier, giving even more local flexibility

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to improve the quality of our future. I can be reached at 814-367-2246 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ralph Wolstenholme, V.P. MedPlast Westfield.

MedPlast Monticello
225 West 11th Street
Monticello, IA 52310

MedPlast Elkhorn
248 W Centralia Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121

MedPlast West Berlin
225 Old Egg Harbor Rd
West Berlin, NJ 08091

MedPlast Tempe
405 W Geneva Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282

MedPlast Westfield
115 Pritchard Hollow Rd
Westfield, PA 16950

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From: Ralph Wolstenholme [rwolstenholme@medplastgroup.com]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2009 10:58 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: ron@teampa.com
Subject: Keystone Exams, Regulation Number 2692
Attachments: support letter_2809_0001.pdf

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2009 OCT 20 AM 9:17

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Please see attached support letter for the Keystone exams.

Thank You,
Ralph Wolstenholme
814-367-2246

rwolstenholme@medplastgroup.com
www.medplastgroup.com

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