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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

June 12, 2008

State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Members of the Board:

I recently had the opportunity to attend a presentation given by Adam Schott, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education, regarding the proposed implementation of stronger graduation requirements and competency assessments. I am confident that requiring students to demonstrate adequate preparation for future success will have a positive impact on our students and the Commonwealth. Please accept this letter as documentation of my support for this initiative.

In my position I continually see college placement test results taken by high school seniors and recent graduates which indicate the need for remediation. A considerable percentage of college freshmen are not prepared for entry into college-level English and mathematics courses. The remedial coursework which they must complete to build their skills requires additional time and expense on the part of the students and does not satisfy graduation requirements.

Having a tool in place to ensure that all of Pennsylvania's high school graduates are adequately prepared for success in post-secondary education is a critical need. These graduates deserve to feel confident that, upon leaving high school, they are equipped to advance their education or enter the workforce without the need for remediation.

The enhanced graduation requirements which the State Board of Education now being considered will provide this confidence. They will ensure that our high school graduates are ready for the challenges which lie ahead. And, they will guarantee a bright future for Pennsylvania as a preparer of world-ready adults.

I urge you to implement these enhanced graduation requirements.

Sincerely,

David A. Volpe, M.S.
Vice President for Student Services and
Institutional Advancement

Climb Higher