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HEALTH SYSTEM
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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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December 27, 2007

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2008 JUN 23 AM 11:43

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Chairman Griton
Pennsylvania Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Chairman Griton:

I am writing to offer my complete support for the Pennsylvania Board of Education's efforts to establish statewide graduation requirements to ensure that all Pennsylvania high school graduates are adequately prepared and have core competencies to advance after high school. Student achievement today is inconsistent, and there is a great deviation in basic competencies of high school graduates depending on location, background, etc. In today's world where academic and professional standards are becoming more rigorous, we can not afford to have such deviation for awarding diplomas to our students. We need to ensure that every Pennsylvania high school diploma provides basic steps for achieving success after high school.

As the largest employer in Delaware County, we see a wide variety of job applicants. The variance in basic core competencies is much greater than one would expect from a standardized educational program. The high school programs and expectations are not uniform, however in these days of global competition and increasing demands they should be.

I understand that graduation competency assessments will be considered at the January meeting of the Pennsylvania Board of Education; I ask that you support this important initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and I would appreciate your views.

Very Truly Yours,

Eugene Zegar
Vice President of Human Resources

EZ/gms