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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Jim Buckheit  
Pennsylvania State Board of Education  
333 Market Street, 1st Floor  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

A few days ago, I received a note from a high school graduate for a gift she received from me for reaching this pinnacle in her life. It was a lovely note but the grammar was so, so, and the spelling was atrocious. I worry that too many students leave high school without the skills needed to fulfill college requirements or to be successful in the eventual workplace.

I understand that improved graduation requirements are being proposed by the State Board of Education and that this will give local school districts more flexibility and better options to accommodate the varying skills and abilities of students. I fully support these broad changes but with caution.

All of our students will eventually, as adults not only compete in their own communities but may find challenges from global competitors as well. We need to prepare them for this with adequate backgrounds and training. They need to be confident in knowing that with their hard work, success will come. The changes proposed for high school graduation requirements must look further than just the diploma. They must add strength to the educational experience without compromises. Hopefully, Governor Rendell's creditable school-funding plan will be implemented and adequate resources will be available to deliver high quality education needed throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Helen Miller  
Member, Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development  
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