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From: Mars R&R Services [marsrrservices@zoominternet.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 2:18 PM
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;;
Subject: Breaking News from Harrisburg
Attachments: HR 456 - Rule 45 Memo.pdf

Dear Education Friends,

You are receiving this email because you previously expressed interest in school board advocacy efforts. If you would like to have your name removed from the email list for any reason please do not hesitate to let me know. There is also a blind cc option that you can choose that will have you receive only the original emails and not participate in any follow-up discussions.

Some breaking news to report listed below:

As many of you know, both Governor Rendell and House Education Chairman have refused to call a regular meeting of the education committee to consider House Resolution 456 which opposes the \$200+ million funding of the Keystone Exams, despite having 80% of the House of Representatives signed onto HR 456 as co-sponsors, which is well over the 2/3rds support needed. The delay is intentional as the Governor's Administration originally planned to delay the vote taking their chances with the vote on Oct. 22nd, 2009 by the IRRC. His plan was to bury this bipartisan joint concurrent resolution in the committee with Chairman Roebuck's help. As you will see by the attached letter to the Speaker of the House sent today by a majority of the members which serve on the House Education Committee, was filed, and stamped today by Speaker McCall.

HR 456 will either be considered by the House Education Committee this Saturday, Oct. 3rd, or Monday Oct. 5th for a vote as specified by the letter.

We now have 162 co-sponsors with State Rep. Chelsa Wagner(D) signed on. Rep. Wagner is also on the House Education Committee and is one of 19 out of 26 Education Committee members who are co-sponsors supporting opposition to funding the Keystone Exams initiative. There is no legislation in existence on this issue that has as many co-sponsors as this one! This action could be the first time in the history of the General Assembly to retract a final form regulation from becoming regulation/law before the IRRC votes to approve or disapprove on October 22nd, 2009.

In the past two years, there have been over 200+ school districts statewide who have passed state resolutions opposing the new exams originally called the Graduation Competency Assessments and now renamed and referred to as the Keystone Exams. There are now 68 new school districts that have passed resolutions opposing the Keystone Exams in recent weeks including: Northwestern Lehigh on 9/9, East Pennsboro on 9/10, Penn Hills on 9/14, Oley Valley on 9/16, Northgate SD 9/16, Southern York on 9/17, Butler Area SD on 9/21, Boyerstown on 9/22, Deerlakes SD on 9/28, Titusville SD, and Antietam School Board in recent weeks.

Despite the pending vote in the coming days on HR 456, we still need to make final public to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission on the Torsella Keystone Exams Proposal and is due to them no later than October 19th. School directors, educators, parents, and community members can send their

comments to: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us Please consider sending your public comments and encouraging others to continue to do so promptly.

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" Never Doubt That a Small Group of Thoughtful, Committed People Can Change The World. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
~Margaret Meade

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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October 1, 2009

Speaker McCall,

Pursuant to Rule 45, the Majority Chairman of the House Education Committee has refused to call a regular meeting of the Committee to consider House Resolution 456.

This shall serve as written notice to the Speaker of the House that the undersigned represent a majority of the members on the House Education Committee and call a meeting of the House Education Committee to consider House Resolution 456.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in 205 Ryan Office Building.

If the House Voting Session Day scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009 is cancelled, the meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in 205 Ryan Office Building.

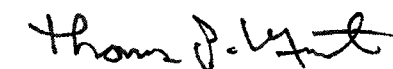
Sincerely,

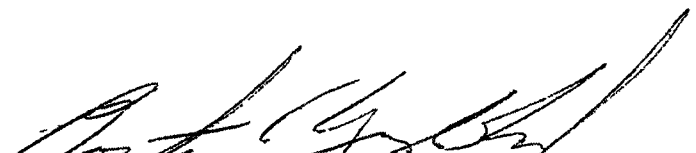

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Representative Mike Fleck



Representative Daryl Metcalfe


Representative Duane Milne


Representative Thomas Murt


Representative Rosita Youngblood


Representative Scott Conklin

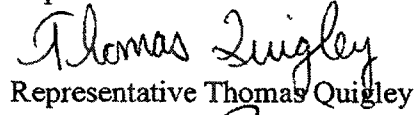

Representative Patrick Harkins


Representative Barbara McIlvaine-Smith


Representative Michael O'Brien



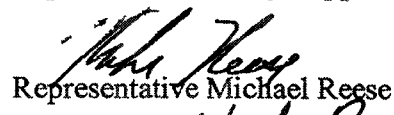
Representative Bernie O'Neill



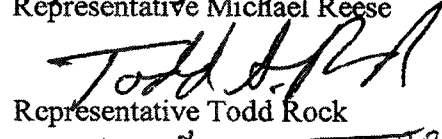
Representative Thomas Quigley



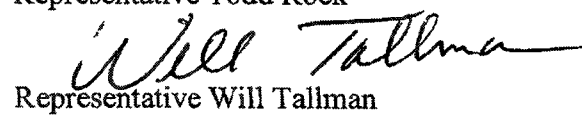
Representative Kathy Rapp



Representative Michael Reese

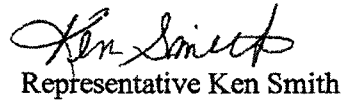


Representative Todd Rock



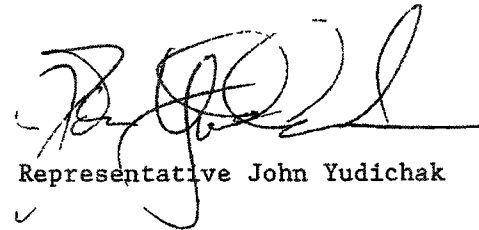
Representative Will Tallman

Representative John Pallone



Representative Ken Smith

Representative Chelsa Wagner



Representative John Yudichak

CC: Anthony Barbush, Chief Clerk
Marc Levy, Secretary Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents
Association