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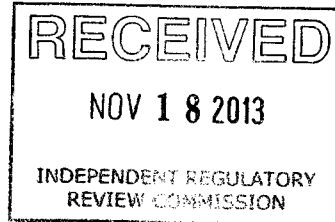
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November 15, 2013



Honorable Members of the IRRC:

I issue this letter in full support for the adoption of the revised Chapter 4 regulations regarding the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Keystone Exams. The revisions were crafted after thoughtful analysis of stakeholder input and thoroughly vetted through numerous public hearings.

I am extremely concerned that without IRRC approval of the revised Chapter 4 regulations, the Commonwealth would revert to the regulations adopted in 2010. This would result in the adoption of the national Common Core State Standards. The Pennsylvania Department of Education would then be required to realign the PSSA's and Keystone Exams to the national Common Core State Standards, which would result in significant costs, or would require the department to use the national Common Core exams to assess Pennsylvania students. This would also result in significant costs to our local school districts, many of whom have already worked to align curriculum to the new Pennsylvania Core Standards and state assessment tools. Failure to adopt the revised Chapter 4 regulations would also overturn important changes made, which include fewer Keystone Exams, the new date for students to demonstrate proficiency to meet state graduation requirements from the class of 2015 to the class of 2017, and removal of the provision for the Keystone Exams to be at least one-third of a student's grade. Adoption of the revised Chapter 4 regulations will result in expanded local control and elimination of the cost of test realignment.

Adoption of the revisions will allow for more time, greater flexibility, and a cost savings as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transitions to the rigorous standards that have been adopted. These standards will help to elevate Pennsylvania's education system and benefit our students. I believe it is absolutely critical to ensure that the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Keystone Exams succeed. The Chapter 4 revisions will help to make that a reality.

I offer my full support. I urge timely approval of the revised Chapter 4 regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest regards,

Ryan P. Aument
State Representative
41st Legislative District