

Original: 2144

TIMOTHY F. MURPHY
STATE SENATOR
37TH DISTRICT

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Senate of Pennsylvania

March 5, 2001

COMMITTEES

AGING & YOUTH, CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMUNICATIONS AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT
EDUCATION

Mr. Robert E. Nyce
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown Building #2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Nyce:

As a member of the Senate Education Committee, I am writing to express my views regarding final form regulation #6-270, which revises Pennsylvania's special education regulations.

The Senate Education Committee met on February 26 to consider the regulations; however, no action was taken by the Committee since a quorum was not present. Officials of the State Board of Education and the Department were available to answer the members' questions about the regulations and to further explain various provisions.

While I agree with the State Board's efforts and intentions to achieve regulatory economy without compromising the quality of special education services and programs, I still have concerns with the possible repercussions that could result from the removal of the parenthetical class size limits for special needs students.

There have been assurances made that special education students would be protected by their IEP and that periodic monitoring of the students performance will also ensure that instructional services are satisfactory. However, I have had phone calls from constituents who are concerned that special education services may be diminished since the class size structure is not clearly defined.

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Mr. Robert E. Nyce
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As the primary agency charged with the comprehensive review of regulations in the Commonwealth, your thorough and prudent examination of these regulations is imperative to ensure that they protect the services for our exceptional needs students and will afford them the same opportunities to high quality special education.

Thank you for your consideration and attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

TIMOTHY F. MURPHY
STATE SENATOR
37TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT