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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Chairman, Education Committee
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Caucuses

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, Member
Board of Directors

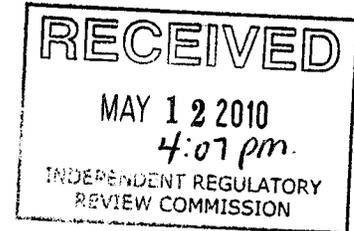
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Black History Advisory Committee, Member

PA Legislative Black Caucus, Member

2817.

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



RE: Final-Omitted Regulations #6-319 – Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Requirements,
Standards and Procedures

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am writing as Chairman of the House Education Committee to express my support for the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations and to urge approval of these regulations by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulations before you were developed by Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning. They ensure that high quality early learning standards developed with broad input from teachers, parents, early childhood education providers and other stakeholders will be available to future generations of Pennsylvania children. These regulations establish best practices that meet or exceed nearly every benchmark set by the national institute for Early Education Research. They will ensure that management and implementation of Pre-K Counts classrooms remain at a consistently high level of quality for years to come.

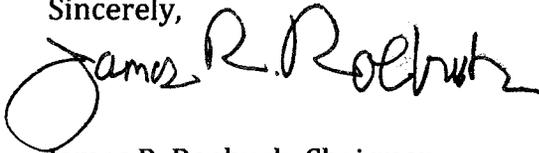
Since these regulations were tolled on March 8, 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has made changes to the regulations to reflect concerns regarding the inclusion of children with disabilities and/or delays in Pennsylvania Pre-K counts' classrooms. The regulations support inclusion and require that all programs be open to children with identified developmental delays and/or disabilities (at 405.3 d).

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts demonstrates it works. Nearly 75% of children who attended Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts finished the school year with age appropriate proficiency in literacy, numeracy and social skills. Among students with developmental delays and/or disabilities who entered the program without age-expected skills in language and literacy, 84% progressed to emerging or age-appropriate skills by the end of the school year.

I respectfully urge you to approve the Final-Omitted Regulations #6-319 - Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Requirements, Standards and Procedures. They are consistent with the directive of the authorizing legislation, Act 45 of 2007. A delay or change to those regulations may hamper the progress already being made by PA Pre-K Counts. I urge you to approve these regulations in full for the benefit of your children, families and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Roebuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

James R. Roebuck, Chairman,

PA House of Representatives

- cc: Honorable Todd Eachus, House of Representative Leader
 Honorable Paul Clymer, House Minority Education Committee Chairman
 Honorable Andrew Dinniman, Senate Democratic Education Committee Chairman
 Honorable Jeffrey Piccola, Senate Majority Education Committee Chairman
 Honorable Thomas Gluck, Acting Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Education
 Honorable Harriett Dichter, Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
 Joe Torsella, Chairman of the State Board of Education
 James M Smith, IRRRC Regulatory Analyst