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House of
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JUL 24 2008



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WA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

July 14, 2008

Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair
Board Members
Washington State Board of Health
P.O. Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504-7990

Dear Mr. Katz and Members of the Board of Health:

We serve as members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education as well as members of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance.

We understand that the Board of Health is considering a change to the School Environmental Health & Safety Rules, Chapter 245-366 WAC, and that the Board is considering adoption of the Proposed Rules in fall 2008. On July 14, 2008, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education held a work session on the proposed K-12 Environmental Health and Safety Rules. We have a better appreciation of the fiscal impacts on school districts and the potential statewide costs associated with implementing many elements of the Proposed Rules.

As you may know, the Joint Legislative Task Force on Basic Education Finance is studying the funding structure of our K-12 public schools. The Task Force is in the midst of preparing a comprehensive report on the costs of basic education. We are looking at funding basic education in a systemic manner and the costs for implementing the Proposed Rules would need to be worked into the recommendations of the Task Force. Therefore, we ask that the Board of Health delay taking action on the School Rules until the Task Force completes its final report (due December 2008) and until the Legislature has an opportunity to address the costs associated with Rule implementation and to consider the costs in the context of other budget decisions. Thank you.

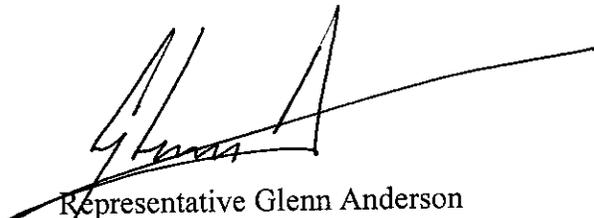
Sincerely,

Representative Kathy Haigh
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Education

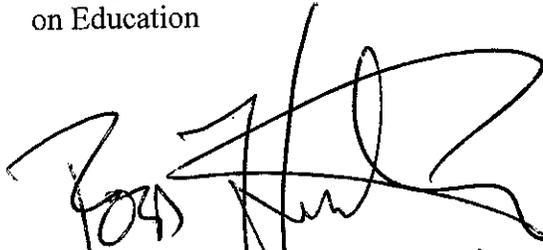
Representative Pat Sullivan
Vice Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Education



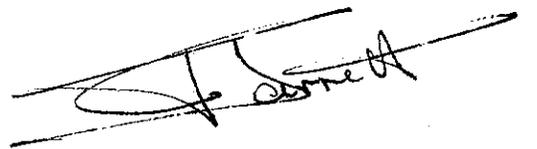
Representative Skip Priest
Ranking Minority
Appropriations Subcommittee
on Education



Representative Glenn Anderson
Assistant Ranking Minority
Appropriations Subcommittee
on Education



Representative Ross Hunter (D-48th)



Representative Fred Jarrett (D-41st)

cc: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health