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HR 1408

CARL CHESTER HARLACKER

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YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17404-2241

PERSONAL INVESTMENTS

November 28, 1998

Representative Allan Egolf
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
House of Representatives
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Representative Egolf:

You are to be applauded and lauded for the recent introduction in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives of the "Student Responsibility Law". This is totally appropriate and long overdue.

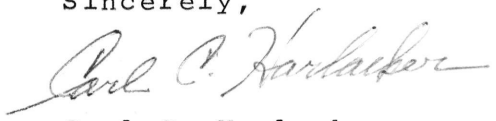
How much longer to Pennsylvania taxpayers have to shoulder double jeopardy/taxation for those students who refuse to "knuckle down" and get an education?

I am a retired public educator - 25 years of service - and acknowledge that, for the most part, the hands of teachers and administrators are tied when dealing with these incorrigible and obstreperous hoodlums.

We have no children, but acknowledge the need for an educated citizenry. There is, however, a limit as to what long-suffering taxpayers can bear.

Thank you for promising to reintroduce this Bill in the next Legislative Session.

Sincerely,



Carl C. Harlacker

ALLAN EGOLF MEMBER

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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November 6, 1998

The Honorable John M. Perzel
Majority Leader
Room 110, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Perzel: *John*

I am writing this letter to request your consideration of a bill that I have prime sponsored this session. House Bill 1408 would require parental responsibility for the cost of alternative education of their children who are expelled from the public schools of the Commonwealth. The bill further provides conditions and procedures for the possible readmission of an expelled student, as well as the educational responsibilities of the school district.

House Bill 1408 was unanimously reported out of the Education Committee on September 29, 1998 and has been laid on the table. Although I introduced this piece of legislation last session (H.B. 1172) and it died in the Appropriations Committee, it has been considerably changed and improved in its current version. The Pennsylvania School Boards Association supports House Bill 1408.

I believe this legislation is important to our school districts and fits in well with our recent safe-schools initiatives. I would appreciate your consideration of House Bill 1408 on the Floor of the House of Representatives as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allan Egolf".

Allan Egolf
State Representative
86th Legislative District

AE/tcr

LEGISLATIVE POSITION



OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENTAL
AND MEMBER RELATIONS

For Further Information, Contact:

Thomas J. Gentzel, Assistant Executive Director for Governmental and Member Relations
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Pennsylvania School Boards Association • 774 Limekiln Road • New Cumberland, PA 17070-2398 • (717) 774-2331 • FAX (717) 774-0718

TO: House Education Committee
SUBJECT: Position Paper - House Bill 1408
DATE: September 28, 1998

PSBA SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 1408 WITH AMENDMENTS

House Bill 1408 is a free-standing bill that provides procedures for students expelled from school and authorizes school boards to enact policies for readmitting expelled students. Specifically, HB 1408 provides that school entities are not required to pay for the education of any student of compulsory school age expelled from a public school during the expulsion period or 12 months, whichever is less. Should a court determine that parents or a legal guardian of a child lack the financial resources to provide for an alternative education agreeable to the school entity, the school entity must provide the education for the student.

Upon the expiration of the expulsion period or 12 months, whichever is less, the school entity must readmit the student subject to the terms and conditions established by the board or provide the student with an alternative education placement in another school, through tutorial or correspondence study or in another education program approved by the board. School entities must establish a policy governing the procedures for expelled students to be readmitted. The policy, at a minimum, must include a letter signed by the expelled student requesting readmission to the school entity and stating that the student agrees to comply with the terms and conditions established by the board. Also, the policy must include an informal hearing between the expelled student and the district superintendent or chief school administrator.

The bill also provides that no school entity would be required to admit into its regular school program a student expelled from another school entity, until the period of expulsion has expired or 12 months has elapsed since the expulsion occurred, whichever is sooner.

PSBA supports HB 1408. Current State Board of Education regulations specify that school districts must pay for the continuing education of students of compulsory school unless the parents show evidence to the school district that they are unable

to do so. Practically, however, there are very few cases, if any, where the parents actually pay for alternative placements. HB 1408 would have the courts make the decision based strictly on a family's ability to afford an alternative education.

A3446 (Egolf) - PSBA supports this amendment that more clearly defines a process in which parents would be financially responsible, if it is shown they possess the resources, for alternatively educating their expelled child. In addition, PSBA supports this amendment because it would require the parent or legal guardian, jointly with the student, to sign a sworn affidavit stating the student agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of the alternative education program, thus increasing parental responsibility and accountability with regards to expelled students.

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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February 13, 1997

TO: All House Members
SUBJECT: Alternative Education
FROM: Robert J. Flick

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Flick".

It is my plan to introduce legislation in the near future which would require parental responsibility for the cost of alternative education of their children who are expelled from the public schools of the Commonwealth. The bill further provides conditions and procedures for the possible readmission of an expelled student, as well as the educational responsibilities of the school district.

If you wish to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact me office at 787-8579.

RJF/mmg