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3168.



April 13, 2017

Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh to support the final omitted regulation submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on *Postsecondary Distance Education Reciprocity #6-337* (IRRC #3618), which is to be considered May 18, 2017 at your public meeting.

This regulation would establish the procedures and fees to support the Commonwealth's participation in the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). Being part of SARA will greatly reduce the administrative burden and reduce costs for the University of Pittsburgh, and all colleges and universities across Pennsylvania that enroll out-of-state students in distance education programs. This regulation, however, will not affect institutions that voluntarily choose to not be part of SARA.

It should be noted that 47 other states are participating in SARA and Pennsylvania's colleges and universities would be placed at a competitive disadvantage should they be unable to participate in SARA.

The University of Pittsburgh asks that the Commission vote in the affirmative on this regulation at the May 18 meeting. If you would like additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Golden".

Cynthia Golden  
Director, University Center for Teaching and Learning

cc: Charles McLaughlin

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