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May 9, 2017

Mr. David Sumner, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Mr. Sumner,

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education very much supports the final omitted regulation submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on Postsecondary Distance Education Reciprocity #6-337 (IRRC#3168), which is to be considered by the Commission on May 18, 2017.

The regulation establishes procedures and fees to support the administration of Pennsylvania's participation in the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). By participating in SARA, the State System universities that enroll out-of-state students in distance education programs will see a lessening of their regulatory burden and reduced costs. Online education is vitally important to our access mission, especially our commitment to adult learners and those in the military.

Pennsylvania is among the last three states that have not joined SARA. Without the Commonwealth's continued participation in the Agreement, the 14 System universities are at a competitive disadvantage.

We ask the Commission to vote "yes" on the regulation on May 18, 2017.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor

- c: Presidents
- Randy Goin, Jr., Chief of Staff
- Kathleen M. Howley, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

