**Your Name**

**Your Address**

**DATE**

State Board of Education

333 Market Street, 1st Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17126

**RE: Chapter 49 Amendments (Certification of Professional Personnel)**

Dear Board Members,

As a Montessori educator in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I respectfully request that the Pennsylvania State Board of Education consider accepting MACTE Accredited Montessori Teacher Training Programs as *Alternative Program Providers* in Pennsylvania. **The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) has been** **recognized by the U.S. Department of Education since 1995.**

The Montessori method of teaching is time tested, with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures throughout the world. Furthermore, Montessori education uses the *Whole Child Approach*; a model that *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development* (ASCD) and the *US Center for Disease Control and Prevention* have been advocating since 2013. Additionally, the effectiveness of the Montessori Method has been validated by contemporary research.

Montessori Training ranges from Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood and extends through grade 12. In order to receive a Full Montessori Credential from a MACTE accredited teacher education program, teacher candidates must first earn a four-year degree; after which, the teacher candidate then completes between 210 hours and 500 hours of instructional clock hours. The hours increase with the level that the teacher candidate is pursuing. All Montessori teacher candidates complete a one-year internship under the supervision and mentorship of a certified and experienced Montessori teacher. The internships range from 540 hours – 1080 hours; the mandatory hours for internships correlate with the level the teacher candidate is pursuing.

By adding MACTE accredited Montessori Teacher Education Programs to the list of *Alternative Program Providers*, Pennsylvania would be joining multiple states across the country (CT, GA, IN, MN, MT, OH, SC, WI) that already recognize the Montessori Teacher Credential, as well as two other states (MD & NC) where legislation pending.

Approving MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs as *Alternative Program Providers* will allow for hundreds of well-qualified educators to be eligible to teach at all schools in Pennsylvania.

I hope that you agree that adding MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs as *Alternative Program Providers* in Pennsylvania will be, at least, part of the solution to increasing highly qualified teachers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your Typed First Name Last Name

**Your Designation ( i.e. Head Teacher, ABC Montessori School)**