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Governor
KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

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BY: _____

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

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Licensure & Credentials
CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

June 22, 2011

Mr. Patrick Elliott
Staff Attorney
Freedom from Religion Foundation
Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Mr. Elliott:

This letter is in response to your inquiry of August 25, 2010 to former Commissioner Bret Schundler concerning the language for the Oath of Allegiance used by the Office of Licensure and Credentials. Specifically, you requested that the Licensing office change its oath form to allow applicants to choose a non-religious affirmation. We apologize for the length of time it has taken to receive legal feedback on the matter and to subsequently respond to your comments.

In response to our consultations, the Licensing office has now changed its Oath of Allegiance form to allow the option of a non-religious affirmation for applicants. A copy of the new oath is enclosed.

Thank you for your inquiry and for your patience.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Cerf
Acting Commissioner

L:Commissioner Cerf/Patrick Elliot oath inquiry.doc

Enclosure

c: Rochelle Hendricks
Andrew Smarick
Cathy Pine
Robert Higgins