Dear Madam or Sir,

It is with pleasure that I write in support of Rebecca Fiorillo’s in becoming a high school math teacher. I know Rebecca quite well as a mathematics student at Ramapo College of New Jersey ever since she took my Linear Algebra class in Fall 2010 and my Abstract Algebra class in Spring 2011. She is definitely in the top 5% in terms of the students I encounter in Linear and Abstract Algebra courses at Ramapo. We have a big math program at Ramapo with about 120 majors and upper level courses sometimes upwards of 30 students. Rebecca is a strong student showing much interest in mathematics and standing out from the crowd as an excellent math student.

Indeed Rebecca is well-known among the mathematics faculty at Ramapo as a top student in our program. I will now describe several of her accomplishments at Ramapo College. First, she has a 3.9 GPA, and performs excellently in all her math courses. Second, she is Secretary of our very active math club, but does more work for the club than her position name suggests. Her contributions to the math club are numerous. She has contributed talks to the math club, she takes initiative in organizing and planning events for the club, and she plays a leadership role in running the politics of the club including dealing with other offices in securing funds for the club. She gave an excellent presentation to the math club on mathematical drawings and I could see great potential for her to be an effective mathematics instructor. She has strong leadership skills and we are fortunate to have her contributing so much to the math club.

In addition to knowing Rebecca well as a student in my classes and through the math club, I spent much time with her one on one while I was holding the Fall 2011 “Ramapo Mathematics Problem-Solving Competition”. Rebecca was without a doubt the most dedicated student to the competition and indeed won. I held weekly problem solving sessions where students could come work and get hints on the problems. Rebecca came to almost every session and was enthusiastic about both the competition and the mathematics. It was during this time that I learned of her true enthusiasm for mathematics. She especially loves to work on Calculus problems.

Speaking of Calculus, Rebecca is also a tutor for Calculus 2 and Pre-calculus at our campus tutoring center. Calculus 2 is the highest level of math that the school hires a tutor for. This is significant because the director of our tutoring center lets only the very best students become tutors. With about 120 mathematics majors at Ramapo College there are quite a few students competing for this job and the director of our tutoring center only hires and keeps tutors that work well with others and are highly knowledgeable and effective. I have been told by our tutoring coordinator that Rebecca is a very effective tutor. In spring 2013 a handful of my Calc 2 students have found her to be a great asset and resource. She has worked there for seven semesters and three summers.

Recently Rebecca expressed to me her interest in pursuing an advanced degree in mathematics. I believe she can reach her goals due to her determination, hard work, passion and abilities.

Finally, Rebecca is hardworking, cordial, respectful, likeable and easy to talk with. In fact she really was a pleasure to have as a student. Her ability and enthusiasm for mathematics makes her most deserving of a teaching position. I think she would benefit greatly from the experience and I give her the highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

**James Gillespie**

Dr. James Gillespie

Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Ramapo College of New Jersey