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Dear members of the IRRRC,

I am aware of a proposal by the state of PA to enact a requirement for all ~~students to be~~ required to take a Keystone exam in order to graduate from high school. Our students are tested enough as currently required by the state. Eliminating PSSA's in 11th grade and standard testing is not enough to justify this new proposal.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

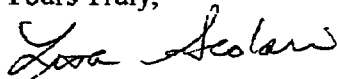
Why does the state feel it to be necessary? Don't the majority of our kids graduate and go on to successful colleges and universities? Do you really want kids to be stressed out about one more exam? What if a student does not pass the exam – will he/she not get to go to the college where they have already been accepted? The incentive for some students, who do not test well, to go on past high school may be destroyed knowing they face, yet another, test or tests.

I realize that exams of this nature are given in other states, New York is the one that comes to mind, but what is the rationale to start this here in Pennsylvania. The cost alone, over \$200 million dollars, is staggering in these economic times. I am sure the state could use those monies in a manner that will not cause more stress to students and staff. Who will administer, monitor and summarize the results of these exams? We will need new staff members, costing the school district more money, and subsequently more taxes to the homeowners.

One young lady in Tennessee successfully fought the state testing requirement in Tennessee and won. She had been unable get a good job since she never got her high school diploma due to the exams. She was a good student, met all requirements for graduation, but could not pass the exam and it just about landed her on the streets. She won the fight against the state and now has her college degree.

Graduation exams are not for every student. If the career of 1 student, anywhere in PA, is adversely affected by the Rendell administration's desire to push this through, it would be a crime. I ask that you **not approve the Keystone exam regulations** as set forth by the State Board of Education.

Yours Truly,



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