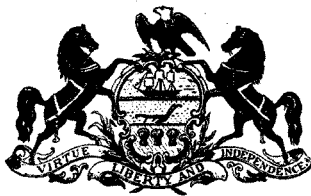


ROBERT W. GODSHALL, MEMBER
150 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202053
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2053
PHONE: (717) 783-6428
FAX: (717) 787-7424

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
INSURANCE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1702 COWPATH ROAD
HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 19440
PHONE: (215) 368-3500
FAX: (215) 361-4220

E-mail: rgodshal@pahousegop.com

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2009 OCT 20 AM 9:46
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

October 16, 2009

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

For the record, I recently wrote a letter on the Keystone Exam proposal.

I would like the letter enclosed to be entered into the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Godshall".

Robert W. Godshall
State Representative
53rd District

RWG:kaj

Robert Godshall - Keystone Test

From: Robert Godshall
To: LFeinberg@TheLocalGroup.com
Date: 8/14/2009 11:42 AM
Subject: Keystone Test

August 14, 2009

Mr. Lawrence A. Feinberg
SPSDEC Co-Chairman

Sent via email: LFeinberg@TheLocalGroup.com

Dear Mr. Feinberg:

I have received your letter opposed to the Keystone Exam proposal. Could the superintendent opposition be related to facing public recognition for what is happening, or not happening, in our schools. In my district, I had 436 of 1120 high school graduates enrolled at SSHA universities in 2007 who had to take remedial courses. These same students needed a total of 796 remedial courses to get them up to speed for college, costing more than \$534,000. This is in spite of our local per pupil spending and teacher salaries being near the very top in the state and way above the state average.

I recognize and appreciate your lengthy service to public education, having served 17 years myself on my school board, but disagree with your conclusions. I see little value in a high school diploma when the recipient can't function at a high school level. When 40% of my students attending SSHA universities need remediation something is wrong. As I said earlier, our superintendents, administrators and teachers are among the highest paid in the state; and our tax payers are demanding more accountability.

I have seen figures that across the state remedial courses at out state owned universities and community colleges are costing Pennsylvanians 26 million dollars per year. A high school graduation exam could cause a lot of embarrassment for a lot of the establishment. Maybe this is what we need to have the problem addressed, most importantly for the benefit of our students as they enter the employment world or seek further education.

I also disagree that your school administration and teachers should require state aid or advice on how to enable or teach students to perform at expected levels of proficiency. Isn't this what they are paid, and paid well, to do? Maybe at the board level we have to start demanding more, and performance pay might not be a bad idea. Something has to change. "Accountability" and "responsibility" should not be foreign words in our vocabulary.

Sincerely,

Representative Robert W Godshall
PA House of Representatives
53rd Legislative District
E-Mail rgodshal@pahousegop.com

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