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From: Kate Stone [katestone@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 4:24 PM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; crubley@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: GCA's feedback

State Board of Education
 333 Market St.
 Harrisburg, PA 17126
 May 19, 2008

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 2008 MAY 20 AM 11:45
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit, and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

- I am opposed to the GCA's because our local school district is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace.
- Unlike a school district's own local proficiency assessment, GCAs do not offer the flexibility to meet the needs of students who have different learning styles and do not permit assessment of students in nontraditional ways.
- The introduction of GCAs would result in a state-controlled curriculum that reduces a local school district's ability to provide a curriculum based on community needs and desires.
- Students who have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to attend if they fail to pass a test.
- Keep in mind, our district students are already reaching proficiency in math, reading and science, demonstrated by the PSSA results and the districts local assessments that have been in place for years.
- Testing redundancy should not be practiced on our students with no sound evidence of success or support within our community.....this type of activity does not seem to lend itself to fostering a positive teaching environment and would seem to diminish kids desires to head into the field of education. As you know we are heading into a time when there will be a teaching shortage and we should not jeopardize that further.

This seems to be a tag along bill to the NCLB, which while intended to capture those kids who would have otherwise fallen through the cracks, the truth being there a lot of negatives that were not thought out properly during the implementation phase. I would support a full bipartisan analysis of these enactments with the financials included in order to make a sound decision for our state.

I would ask you to review my opposition to the GCA's carefully and strongly consider the fact that parents of students in our district should be able to provide feedback and help to make important decisions about our children's education as well as keeping in mind that we support the district and state through our tax efforts and with many other financial contributions.

Most sincerely,

Kate Stone Reis
 Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

5/20/2008