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From: jeannebraun@aol.com**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 10:33 AM**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ladies & Gentlemen:

We are NOT in favor of the legislation being considered to have students in Pennsylvania required to pass a Graduation Competency Assessment.

We have four children who attend school in the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District (grades 12, 8, 5, and 2) and we believe that our kids have enough (too much) standardized testing already. I recognize that all school districts in Pennsylvania do not have the same resources, fabulous teachers and opportunities that our children do, but adding another statewide layer of testing is NOT the answer.

Our local school district is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace. We need to maintain some level of control and autonomy in our curriculum development to continue to achieve the very high standards and performance at our schools.

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 addition of the GCS battery reduces the number of instructional days and would impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests.

Thank you.

Jeanne & Don Braun
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