

From: Jennifer Horan [jhoran1012@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:32 PM

To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstarrs@pahousegop.com;
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Subject: Re: state testing opposition

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2008 MAY 21 AM 9:35

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs. I have four children in our district ranging from 2nd to 9th grade. Only two of my children would be affected by the new regulations. I do not want their education to be diminished by further testing that is unnecessary.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners.

I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.

I am opposed to double testing of our students. I have seen that with the institution of the PSSA exams, much more time is spent teaching towards the test and administering the test. I would hate for every high school class to rotate around a state test. This would also alter the entire curriculum at the high school, where currently there are two semester finals. With the institution of this exam there would be a final for the entire year which puts undo stress on our children.

I am opposed because students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment. It would make much more sense to target the districts that are not meeting proficiency and use all state funds to help these districts instead of mandating all students to be tested. This would save precious dollars and resources that could be better used.

I am opposed because GCAs do not test our students on relevant 21st century skills, and valuable class time will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests. The instituion of these exams will take away curriculum time that can be used to extend thinking skills and encourage creativity in thinking, something that this country is in dire need of.

Most sincerely,

Kevin Horan

Tredyffrin/Easttown resident