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From: lisa earle [learle@comcast.net]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 7:49 PM**To:** jrholdes@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com**Cc:** IRRC**Subject:** GCA Opposition

2008 MAY 21 AM 9:35

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the Commonwealth's proposed use of Graduate Competency Assessments (GCAs).

We are opposed to the GCAs for the following reasons:

1. They will not be provided in a format that meets or accommodates the needs of our students with learning differences;
2. Our school district already puts our children through rigorous PSSA exams several times before they graduate and if they do not test at or above the level of "proficient" they are required to take a special class to help them improve their skills in the specific academic area that is below proficient;
3. 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.

If the intent of the Board is to remediate the poor academic performance patterns among a few school districts, narrow or tailor the proposed regulation to effectively assist those schools and their students to achieve graduate level proficiency in education. Do not implement an overly broad and ineffective regulation across the board. Together with thousands of other parents and students, we urge the Board to withdraw this proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Thomas & Lisa Earle
Tredyffrin/Easttown School District Residents

5/21/2008