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Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 3:05 PM
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Subject: Comment: Graduation Competency Assessment

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 2008 MAY 22 PM 4:54
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Jim Buckheit
 Executive Director
 State Board of Education
 333 Market St. Harrisburg, PA 17126

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graduation Competency Assessment proposal.

As a professor, I know that the most important skills that our secondary school students must master involve critical thinking and research. Such skills will not be assessed by the proposed GCAs, but the need to "teach to the test" that will be created by imposition of GCAs will absorb time that should be spent teaching such important skills.

As a matter of fact, we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams, and the continued expansion of such tests under the No Child Left Behind mind-set already degrades the quality of the educational experience for most of our students.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Husick
 (Tredyffrin-Easttown School District Resident)

"It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955) - Autobiographical Notes

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