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Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 2:58 PM

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

Cc: Lisa Shendge; Bob pacca Bob at work

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs as my two children, currently in first and third grade in the T/E School District, would not benefit from the additional testing. 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 non-traditional 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. I fear the expectations and anxiety caused by further testing would be overwhelming for my children. 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.

I feel strongly that this is yet another hurdle in the "no child behind" debacle.

Most sincerely,

Tara L. Pacca
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident