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From: Sandie Nicholson [sandiekev@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 12:07 PM

To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRC; jr hoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstair s@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; d milne@pahousegop.com; cruble y@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andy dinniman@pasenate.com; j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRC; jr hoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstair s@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; d milne@pahousegop.com; cruble y@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andy dinniman@pasenate.com

Cc: Sandie Nicholson

Subject: OPPOSITION to the GCAs

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

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MAY 27 PM 2:34
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am writing to express my OPPOSITION to the GCAs. I am opposed to double testing of our students. 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. I am also 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 addition of the GCS battery reduces the number of instructional days and would impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes resting on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests. Finally, the current proposal could have significant economic impact on school districts operating under Act 1 fiscal restraints and the required expenditures have no proof of effectiveness.

Most sincerely,

Sandie Nicholson
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

5/27/2008