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From: mishko212@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 12:07 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstarrs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmlne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: Graduation Competency Assessments

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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 GCAs for the following reasons:

- 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 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 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.
- Students who have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to attend if they fail to pass a test. **This is unfair to capable students who may just not "test well."**
- I am opposed because 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.**

As a mother of a 4th grader, I am already seeing the effects of how stressful all the school testing/requirements are on our children. We are in a wonderful school district that does everything to prepare our children for life after high school. The world we live in creates enough stresses on our children to succeed, we don't need to add additional stress on them by whether or not they are able to pass a certain test.

I am strongly opposed to this legislation!!

Most sincerely,
 Jackie Brautigam
 Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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5/28/2008