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From: ccdiehl81@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 1:19 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstarrs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: Graduation Competency Assessments

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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.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners. 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 they do not permit assessment of students in nontraditional ways.

I am also opposed because we do NOT need more standardized tests!! There are already more than enough tests that take away from real teaching and real learning. We do not need any more tests - we already test students in math, reading and science through the PSSA exams. The addition of the GCA battery will reduce the number of instructional days for the actual taking of the test in addition to the valuable class time that would be diverted to prepare students to take these tests.

Finally, I am opposed because 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 know my sentiments are shared by many in our district. I hope you will take them very seriously and ensure the GCAs do not move forward in the legislation process.

Most sincerely,

Carol Diehl
 Tredyffrin Township resident

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5/29/2008