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From: Corbi, Kimberly [KCorbi@umasd.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 8:19 AM

To: j buckheit@state.pa.us

Cc: Corbi, Kimberly

Subject: Graduation Assessment

2008 MAY 29 AM 9:34

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my EXTREME opposition to this action. I can't believe that this state, that I have always been so proud of, would consider an action so wrong. To impose a standard exam for students to take in order to graduate is unfair, biased, and bordering emotional cruelty. I work in a school myself and have seen first hand the emotional havoc the PSSA has on students. Their anxiety levels are through the roof. Education ceases to be an enjoyable place to be. Assessing students through a "cookie cutter" exam has never been the answer. I have prayed for the time that this exam will stop and legislators realize the problems they are creating by trying to hold every student to one standard regardless of natural abilities, disabilities, and familial stressors.

And now here is something even worse.

How on Earth can you possibly think to impose something like this on districts? What message are we sending to the students who work hard for four years, earning grades, studying, researching, etc. We are telling them that those four years did not matter.

Many students have great difficulty on final exams. To study for a final, on material that you have learned all year is an almost impossible task. Now you are asking them to account for the four years they attended high school? You will be personally responsible for the mental health of the students of Pennsylvania taking a nose dive due to stress, depression and anxiety. I also doubt that the state will be assisting in funding the enormous financial burden this would create due to the actual cost of the assessment, remediation programming for students who do not "pass", counseling and support for students with test anxiety (for a single exam that will determine the rest of their life).

My guess is that most of the people in favor of this proposal, do NOT work in a school and do NOT have children who will be hurt by this.

Kimberly A. Corbi

6th Grade Guidance Counselor

5/27/2008