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May 22, 2008

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

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 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 the diverse community needs and desires.

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.

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.

Most sincerely,



Ted Karwat
Resident of Twin Valley School District

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