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**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Owen [otsmyth@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2008 5:51 PM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Proposed GCA

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I would like to go on record as opposing the Graduation Competency Assessment. We are already relying too heavily on standardized testing instead of looking at the whole picture of educating our children. I have full confidence that our competent, trained teaching professionals would not allow a child to progress to the point of high school graduation without a solid education as their foundation.

My son is very bright and does very well in all his classes, but tends to get nervous when it comes to taking tests. As a result, he doesn't do as well on his tests as he could. I would not want him to have more pressure applied by the threat of not getting a high school diploma if he doesn't pass these tests.

I know you will weigh this matter seriously and hope that you will make the decision to oppose the GCA as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Smyth  
OTSmyth@mac.com