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Buckheit, James

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From: Pam Lenz [plenz@nwsd.org]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2008 10:29 AM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Academic Standards and Assessment (Public Comments)

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

Please note my opposition to the Academic Standards and Assessment proposed rulemaking as it currently stands. My opposition, simply stated, stems from the following points.

1. The subject matter tests are proposed as an alternative for students who were not deemed proficient or advanced on the PSSA. Based upon past practice and my research in the field of school reform, it appears that creating another series of assessments will not address the real concern (ensuring that students have the basic understandings necessary to be productive 21st century citizens). If students prove to be no more successful on these new exams, will yet another alternative be proposed?
2. The development of the exams is too costly. Should these funds be used in a well-thought out manner to address the root causes of our students' lack of competency, quality of life in the United States would likely improve over time. A program that these funds could be put toward might include intensive mandatory parenting classes for those in the lower socioeconomic brackets. Funds could also be devoted

to research that investigates how other nations have successfully improved their educational systems (why reinvent the wheel?). Finally, a study could be conducted (including ALL stakeholders) to explore how best to overhaul the current, outdated system of education in both PA and the United States.

Thank you,
 Dr. Pamela A. Lenz

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