

2696**Buckheit, James****RECEIVED****383****From:** Leimbach, Sue [SLEIMBACH@wcasd.k12.pa.us]**2008 JUN -4 PM 1: 50****Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 12:02 PM**To:** jlbuckheit@state.pa.us**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION****Subject:** Opposition to GCA requirement

As an experienced educator and parent of 4 grown children who were educated in public school system in Pennsylvania I want to voice my concern about pending Chapter 4 Regulations regarding Graduation Competency Assessments. At least one of my own children would have struggled to perform well in such an exam, despite working very hard through 13 years of education and maintain a B-C average. This daughter went to a state university and graduated and later became a credentialed teacher and is employed as such.

With all the scientific research studies showing that standardized testing is a poor measurement of student's knowledge, skills and expected success it is hard to imagine how our legislators continue to be preoccupied with forcing more and more standardized testing on our students.

As a school nurse I took care of several students this past year who were in the nurse's office, missing valuable class time because they were anxious about upcoming PSSA tests. In my opinion it is not necessary to subject little children to that kind of pressure.

The regulation as it would affect special education students has many points left unaddressed.

I work in our administration office a few days a week and see firsthand the amount of clerical work and what must be an extraordinary expense related to the standardized testing already in place. Spending more dollars in this manner is a foolish waste of taxpayer dollars.

And as a leader on several committees concerned with children at risk and drop out students in particular I am very concerned that this will add to our already outrageous drop out rates in this commonwealth. I believe students who are not confident may well give up. What our communities do not need are more young people out there without high school educations adding to crime rates, welfare roles etc. etc.

Please be sure to share my objection to this misguided plan with the Education Committees.

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Health Services Coordinator

6/2/2008

Opposition to GCA requirement

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