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Buckheit, James

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From: Debbie Neatock [DebbieNe@cciu.org]**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2008 9:53 AM

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To: jrbuckheit@state.pa.us**Cc:** Carol LynchINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** High stakes testing

Good Morning,

I have been the Cosmetology instructor at CAT Pickering for the last 10 years. Most of my students have gone into the business world and have been, and are, very successful wage earners. Employers are pleased with these young adults, and seek more graduates from my program to hire. They have all passed the State Board of Cosmetology licensing exam and hold these credentials.

On the other side of the coin, many of my students have not passed the NOCTI test, which is an exit exam. The cut score has been raised by almost 25 points over the last several years. The test is not well aligned with State Board of Cosmetology standards, because the very high stakes licensing test is being passed, even though it has higher standards than the NOCTI exam. I believe that many standardized test have similar results.

I believe that not allowing students to graduate due to a test would be unfair to the youth of our society. I do believe that we should have them be accountable for learning, but a standardized test is not always the best measure of learning. Students with learning difficulties often have trouble scoring high on tests. Also language barriers, test anxiety and other variables can have a student not look successful, even though they would be very successful and productive members of society and the work force.

Please reconsider this regulation for students not to graduate for not passing a standardized test.

Thank you ,
Debbie Neatock

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