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**Sent:** Sunday, June 08, 2008 11:35 PM  
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Mr. Karl R. Girton  
 Mr. Jim Buckheit  
 State Board of Education  
 333 Market St.  
 Harrisburg, PA 17126

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 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Girton, Mr. Buckheit and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs. I feel that my district, the Tredyffrin Easttown School District, has an excellent system in place for assessing graduation competency, one that is flexible in meeting the needs of students and has been proven more than adequate by the success our graduates have shown in their college and post-collegiate careers. I believe the proposed GCAs will place an unnecessary and undue additional burden on our students who face a battery of tests -- including the PSSAs -- in their high school years.

As the parent of two TE students and the spouse of a college professor, I see how our children and their peers are already performing at a high level that exceeds expectations and exerts a fair amount of pressure. As it is, children no longer have as much time to cultivate a love of learning and explore various subject areas. Instead, they are being exposed to test after test which government officials see as improving our learning statewide.

The GSAs would impose an unnecessary and flawed additional burden on our children, their teachers, and our district. The GCAs

- 1) will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners;
- 2) duplicate the test our T/E students already take in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams;
- 3) add an unnecessary additional testing burden on our students, their teachers, and the district;
- 4) do not take into account the fact that students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment;
- 5) do not test our students on relevant 21st century skills;
- 6) and take up valuable class time that will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests.

I hope you will take my comments into consideration.

Most sincerely,

Juliette Hyson  
 1559 Russell Road  
 Paoli, PA 19301