

**Buckheit, James**

RECEIVED

54

**From:** Kathy Lozier [KathyL@cciu.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 04, 2008 3:00 PM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** GCA

2008 JUN -9 PM 3: 02

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear James,

I just wanted to express my opposition to the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments. I have been working in the field of education for 14 years and have two daughters, now in their 20's. I feel as if I have some insight both as an educator and as a parent. By using just one means of assessment to show the competency of a student/person does a great disservice to a huge percentage of our population. I will give you an example that does not take place in our public school, but does speak to how we want to show a person's competency. When my then teen-age daughter who volunteered at the town fire house wanted to become an EMT, she of course had to take the required courses. Given the paper and pencil test, she passed, but certainly was not at the top of her class. When it came to the situational hands on half of the test, she did exceptionally well. Who would you rather show up at the door to take care of you or your loved one when you dial 911? Would you like someone like my daughter or someone who did well on the paper pencil half of the exam?

Let's also take a look at all the students that are well aware that they are not academically able to pass the GCA's requirements. You will see many students drop out. Why would they want to continue when they know that the prize is out of their reach? We all know that drop outs have increased rates of run ins with the law. Our jails are already full. Let's keep these students in school and give them a chance to contribute to society rather than become a burden.

Thanks for listening,  
Kathy Lozier