

Buckheit, James

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I just received a notice about a proposed State Proficiency Exam law considered by the lawmakers in Harrisburg.

I am a retired teacher of 8 years, and can't understand in any manner why this exam is needed to be a law, let alone even an idea. For whom is it supposed to be of benefit? Those students scoring in needed levels on the SAT or college entrance exams already have a

"barrier" of ability measurement after completion of 100 % of their HS regulations, which include levels of college entrance skills in areas you plan to test.

Students NOT taking those "higher" levels of Math, Science and English while in HS. are clearly told of the consequences of the "average" levels of those HS Ed. courses and are then faced with make up in community college courses, evening schools or courses taken later in life .

(NOTE) There is no part of your written law that requires HS students who complete military service from having to pass a "proficiency " test, and they can enter any college they chose if passing the basic college entrance test..showing a somewhat strange double standard of testing/passing rule in my mind.

I would have NOT been able to pass a HS proficiency test in English in the spell area, and had to take a zero credit course @ Penn State as well as entrance level English class as the result of my SAT low score in that area.

I graduated with a 3.2 GPA, and continued on to teach for 31 years, while gaining a masters of ED, plus 30 credits. Would the new proposed law have given me a "negative" mark in today's world? What would have been the purpose of the "mark" if I accomplished more

in under grad college work, as well as post grad work?

It "mystifies" me to no end that law makers keep trying to get students ahead of either other states,

or show their levels of excellence, yet make NO room or laws(let alone consider funds) for those left behind or dropping out and then lost in a DWINDLING blue collar work world and lower middle class society.

Lawmakers should seriously balance attempts at excellence level raising with means to aid those not able to meet the higher and higher bars of excellence.

As a former pro baseball player(signed after graduation from PSU) I shall tell you that despite all laws made in Harrisburg to measure "quality of learning", "athletes in demand" from Universities through out America would "trash" the new state laws despite what they show

the lawmakers in PA, and still accept SAT scores and HS GPAs as entrance qualifications which demean the work of all PA lawmakers for certain in "proficiency" testing.

Get on with preparing PA HS students for the real world, not trying to measure proficiency in just high level HS course areas.

Richard L Noe, class of '64, Penn State U.