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Buckheit, James

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From: Robin White [RWhite@SCAVTS.net]**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2008 8:32 AM

2008 JUN -9 PM 3:05

To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** Graduation Assessment - Standardized Tests
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am opposed to the proposed Chapter 4 Regulations on Graduation Competency Assessments that would prevent students of Pennsylvania from receiving a high school diploma based on the results of a standardized tests. Withholding the high school diploma is a cruel and permanent consequence that cannot be revoked. To impose this harsh and punitive action on young people who will undoubtedly grow and develop over time is not only unfair, it is highly destructive to families, to communities, and to the commonwealth in general. I am a vocational technical teacher who see students go on to live successful lives in spite of their inability to score a proficient on some parts of the PSSA tests.

Based on the data currently available concerning the PSSA, the trauma of denying a high school diploma will disproportionately affect those students who are black, brown, and/or poor. Being forced to leave school without a diploma can potentially lock students into a permanent state of poverty. It has generational implications as poverty limits choice in housing and housing ownership, limits the capacity to access health insurance, limits access to further ones education and to educate ones children. That is most certainly a cruel and unusual punishment for not passing a test. The state of Pennsylvania, should not bring its power to bare against its children in such a permanently crippling way. Let's first see if the teachers can even teach these competencies. My believe is that the children are not learning and understanding because some of the teachers do not know or understand. Let's first make this a requirement for those who are teaching the math's, sciences,

etc. **Let the teachers pass the standardized test first
before giving these test to the students.**

Sincerely,

Robin L. White
Teacher

6/5/2008