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PA State Board of Education
333 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

JUN 05 2008
PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Dear Board Members:

As taxpayers and citizens concerned with the productivity and success of future generations, we are writing to offer our strong support for graduation competency assessments as a tool to ensure our high school graduates are adequately prepared for life after high school.

As you know, Pennsylvania invests billions of dollars annually into building and maintaining a world-class public education system. Our tax dollars are among those invested. This investment in our future needs to be backed by the assurance that a high diploma has a uniform and substantive meaning regardless of which high school or school district has awarded it. GCAs are a common sense way to offer such assurances to colleges, universities and employers – not to mention graduates and their parents.

Unlike generations past, today's knowledge-based workforce requires workers to be proficient in subject such as science, mathematics and language. Even manufacturing-based jobs that were once open to "unskilled" workers now require readiness in these core areas.

These issues could be mitigated through the stronger graduation requirements the State Board of Education is considering. If we can ensure our high school graduates have diplomas that represent readiness, we can give them the skills and confidence to compete and succeed in the modern workplace alongside the best and brightest workers the world has to offer.

We wholeheartedly endorse your efforts to make GCAs a reality.

Sincerely,



William and Linda Boston
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Furlong PA 18925-1011