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Buckheit, James

From: Paul Stepanoff [PStepanoff@efgroup.com]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 3:40 PM
To: jlbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Changing High School Graduation Requirements

2008 JUN 12 AM 9:38

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

Although a member of the Quakertown Community School District Board, my comments regarding changing high school graduation requirements are my personal ones.

As a business executive, school board member, and parent of five children, I can first hand tell you that the diplomas handed out by public education high schools are nearly worthless. There is a wide disparity of requirements for graduation from district to district. Colleges and Businesses see this disparity and have developed their own testing methods to find out what a young person does or does not know. My feeling is that a high school diploma should meet a state, or national standard. Parents and employers have a right to know that at least some minimum and clear standard stands behind a high-school diploma, no matter what school district that diploma comes from.

Therefore, it is essential to pass this bill to set graduation standards. Several states already do this. We in PA should set a high standard for graduation and show the world exactly what a high school diploma means in PA. Currently, such a diploma means nothing. With the passing of this bill, requiring a standard test be passed in order to graduate, there will be no question that a diploma will mean that a certain level of achievement was reached.

Finally, such a diploma will provide better self-esteem to our students. There will be a sense of confidence and accomplishment that their diploma actually means something! For the sake of all, please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Stepanoff, PE, MBA
 Chief Operations Officer

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