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Buckheit, James**From:** Kate Rutledge [krut71@gmail.com]

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Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2008 11:03 AM**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** GCA Exams

Jim Buckheit | Executive Director
State Board of Education
PA Department of Education
333 Market Street 1st floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333
Phone: (717) 787-3787 | Fax (717) 787-7306

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed graduate competency exams. I am currently an employee of an IU in the state of Pennsylvania working as a speech/language pathologist. I have worked in the high school setting with autistic support, learning support and regular education students. It is absolutely appalling to me that Governor Rendell would take the one item that every student has had their eye on since day one of kindergarten, a high school diploma, and strip it away in an instant. There are many, many students who have put their all into advancing towards that moment when they get to walk across that stage and receive their very own diploma. I'm not talking about the valedictorians, the honor students, or those students who are receiving the college scholarships. I'm talking about the boy who loved to go to school because he got to work in the wood shop or the metal shop everyday, that girl who maybe wasn't math whiz but studied as hard as she could and still got a C in general math. These are the students who are going to be devastated by these exams. These are the students who are going to be crushed when they can't pass yet another standardized test. Yet, unlike the PSSA's which has no meaning to these students in their real lives, this test will have detrimental results in their lives. Try getting any job beyond the minimum wage level without a high school diploma. Imagine the shame and embarrassment when they are asked whether or not they have a high school diploma. These same students who maybe did receive passing grades all through high school now need to face being rejected and degraded by being denied a high school diploma.

It is baffling to me why Governor Rendell would do this to the students of Pennsylvania. I have 15 year old nephew who may be subjected to these exams. I am worried for the future of our students and I ask that you convey my message to the Governor and the committee to reject these exams!

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kate Rutledge

Speech/Language Pathologist/Bucks County IU #22

206 Cherry St.

East Greenville, PA 18041

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