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From: sharon Lamb [sharon.lamb@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2008 10:45 AM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrholdes@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: Opposition to GCAs

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

Dear Mr. Buckheit, and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs. I believe that a district should have the option to opt out of the testing, if already reaching a level of proficiency on it's own. I am opposed to the amount of money that will be spent on this testing that could be put directly to funding in school districts in need. Our district is doing a fine job of assuring the future of our students. For districts in need, these funds could go to programs for training staff and teachers, increasing numbers of teachers to decrease student to teacher ratios, books, and supplies.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners. I am opposed to double testing of our students. I am opposed because students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment. I am opposed because GCAs do not test our students on relevant 21st century skills, and valuable class time will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests.

Most sincerely,

Sharon J. Lamb
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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