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Buckheit, James

From: Charles Robey [chasd121@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2008 10:23 AM
To: jrbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Oppose Graduation Competency Assessments

2008 JUN 23 AM 10:16
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

PO Box 1224
Skippack, PA 19474
June 13, 2008

State Board of Education
ATTN: James Buckheit, Executive Director
333 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Re: Proposed Chapter 4 Regulations
Graduation Competency Assessments

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing to register my opposition to the Graduation Competency Assessments. As a taxpayer I am extremely concerned about the unknown cost of implementing another set of tests. Where will this money come from? Will the state provide the initial funding? Most importantly, will the funding continue or will it become another unfunded mandate that will fall on the shoulders of the local tax payer?? This is unacceptable.

As a Special Educator of students with emotional and behavioral disorders, I worry about my students. The amount of pressure placed on these children to perform on PSSA and district assessments creates very difficult situations. The amount of energy and emotional stress is overwhelming. Many of these students would gladly dropout as to take more tests.

For these and many other reasons I urge the PA State Board of Education to remove the draft graduation requirements. Take the money targeted for this project and spend it on providing adequate funding for all. The State Legislature found it important to complete a Costing Out Study to demonstrate real costs to educate the children of Pennsylvania. Please follow those recommendations and support the efforts to fund education for "all" students equally.

Sincerely,

Charles Robey