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788 Sarah Fitzpatrick PSEA
 869 Carol Karl & James P. PSEA
 905 Kelly Fick PSEA
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 928 Amber Dongilli PSEA
 929 Alicen L. Graupner PSEA
 930 Molly Baxter PSEA
 933 Brian Goppman PSEA
 934 Bob Muehlbach PSEA

208 East Littlewood St Pittsburgh
 400 North Third St Harrisburg
 1650 West Chester Pike / Wayne
 1330 Skyline Drive Hermitage
 504 Cubbage St Carnegie
 110 Monath St West Newton
 1000 Conestoga Rd Apt E Bryn Mawr
 813 S. 17th St Philadelphia
 413 Redstone Church Rd Perryopolis
 107 N. Broad St Kennett Square
 606 Madison St Mohnton
 953 Garden City Drive Monroeville
 138 Cullen Road Oxford

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 REVIEW COMMISSION

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Buckheit, James

From: Sarah Fitzpatrick [sef20@pitt.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2008 4:58 PM
To: James Buckheit
Subject: Oppose the GCA proposal!

Sarah Fitzpatrick
208 East Littlewood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15223-1132

June 12, 2008

James Buckheit
Executive Director, State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear James Buckheit:

I oppose the State Board of Education's proposed Graduation Competency Assessments. This proposal would mandate high-stakes standardized high school exit exams and would deny students a high school diploma if they do not score "proficient" on these statewide tests. There are numerous reasons I oppose the GCA proposal, but first and foremost I do not believe that standardized tests are the best determination of student achievement. The thought of denying students a high school diploma - which has long-term negative effects on their lives - because they didn't score "proficient" on a statewide test truly concerns me. At a time when we know that Pennsylvania's public education system lacks the funding it needs by over \$4 billion in order to help every student meet the state's academic standards, it is irresponsible to impose high-stakes testing on our students. In addition, no analysis has been done on the cost of developing and administering the GCAs, let alone what it would cost to remediate those students who do not score "proficient" on the exam. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fitzpatrick