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2008 JUN 23 AM 10:14

From: GarneyMorris@aol.com

Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2008 12:53 PM

To: j buckheit@state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Cc: bolanoff@state.pa.us; GarneyMorris@aol.com

Subject: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS

DEAR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

MS. BURKET CAN YOU SHARE THIS WITH OTHERS PLEASE

SO SORRY I'M NOT MUCH OF A WRITER, I DO HOWEVER WEAR MANY HATS, DEAL WITH ALL PARTS OF OUR POPULATION EVERY DAY.

I WANTED TO GET MY COMMENTS TO YOU BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF JUNE 16, 2008. I'M A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, ALMOST 64 YEARS OLD.

MY THOUGHTS ARE TO EXPRESS HOW MUCH OUR STATE SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS.

I SERVE ON MANY BOARDS AND EVEN AS THE CHAIRMAN OF BUCKS COUNTY'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD. OUR BOARD DID NOT SUPPORT THESE REQUIREMENTS. THE VOTE WAS NOT CLOSE, THE COMMENTS WERE MUCH FROM THE HEART OR FROM THE FEAR SIDE OF THE MIND.

CHANGE IS FEAR AND ITS VERY MUCH A MOTIVATOR OF OUR CITIZENS. TESTING STUDENTS WAY TO MUCH, UNFUNDIT MANDATES, ETC, ETC, WERE THE BUZY WORDS DURING THE VOTING PERIOD. ALL OF THIS AS PRIVATE PERSON, A BUSINESS OWNER AND A GRANDFATHER IS BEWILDERING AND I PRAY FOR CHANGE SOON.

IT'S WELL PAST TIME FOR THIS NEW IDEA, OR IS IT OLD??? I FEEL WAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS AROUND A LONG TIME AGO. BACK IN THE EARLY 1960'S WHEN WE WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE FINALS, PASS THEM OR FAIL AND REPEAT THE GRAD.

I THINK ABOUT, 98 % PASSED. I KNOW I DID AND IT WAS NOT EASY, I KINDA COSTED IN HIGH SCHOOL KNOWING I WAS NOT GOING TO COLLEGE AND JUST WANTED TO BE A ELECTRICIAN. THEN THE LIGHT WENT ON WHEN A TEACHER SAID "YOU CAN'T BE A ELECTRIAN IF YOU CAN'T DO MATH, AND READ, YEARS THAT LIGHT KEPT GETTING BRIGHTER AS MY JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS FLEW BY

IN MY BUSINESS WORLD WE ARE TESTED EVERY DAY AND IF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WERE MORE READY FOR THE WORK, OR THE COLLEGE WORLD OUR ECONOMY WOULD BE FAR BETTER AT THIS TIME.

MY YOUNG EMPLOYEES AND NOT SO YOUNG CANNOT GET INTO THE UNION'S ELECTRICAL APPRENTISHIP PROGRAM WITH-OUT A H.S. DIPLOMA OR A GED. THE ONES THAT NEED TO BE TUITIONED ARE HELD BACK UNTIL THEY ARE RE-EDUCATED IN MATH, READING.

RECENTLY OUR LOCAL PAPER HAD A THUMBS DOWN TO OUR STATE LAWMAKERS TRYING TO BLOCK THIS PROPOSAL. ALSO RECENTLY THAT SAME PAPER QUOTED A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE THAT SAID " HE DID NOT MIND HAVING TO DO GOOD ON THE STATES STANDARDIZED TEST IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HARRY S. TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL" IT FEELS GOOD BECAUSE YOU KNOW YOU DID SOMETHING IN ORDER TO GRADUATE". WE TOOK THE TEST IN OUR JUNIOR YEAR AND THOSE THAT DIDN'T DO WELL HAD TO TAKE REMEDIAL CLASSES THEIR SENIOR YEAR. "THE TOUGHER REQUIREMENT PLACED MORE VALUE ON GRADUATION".

I'M JUST ABOUT DONE HERE BUT AS I SAID TESTING IS PART OF OUR LIVES. THIS ONE STUDENT SAID HE WAS FINE WITH THE TEST HE HAD AND I'M CERTAIN MANY OTHERS WANT TO KNOW THEY

ARE MORE PREPARED THAN THOSE THAT WENT BEFORE THEM. I'M A GRANDFATHER OF SIX FROM OUR NATUARL CHILDRED, PLUS FOUR THAT WE ARE BLESSED WITH FROM OUR FOSTER CHILDREN.

ITS A VERY COMPLICATED WORLD FOR ALL. LETS HELP TO GET THE YOUNG ONES READY EARLY. BY ENACTING THESE GRAUATION REQUIREMENTS ASAP

THANKS

GARNEY MORRIS

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