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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

9.06 AM.

April 26, 2008

Ms. Kim Kaufman, Executive Director  
The Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Kaufman,

I have recently become aware of the PA State Board of Education's proposal to create mandatory Graduation Competency Assessments in ten subject areas for all students in Pennsylvania. I am writing to tell you that I oppose the use of additional mandatory testing in order for a student to receive their high school diploma. I believe that a student should be judged worthy of a graduation diploma based on the entire body of a student's academic career, not a single test or series of tests. I am concerned that this kind of approach to graduation will lead to higher drop out rates for students who struggle academically or those who have test phobias, and will lead teachers to teach to a particular test.

As a parent and a taxpayer of Commonwealth, I hope that you will carefully consider these concerns, oppose the adoption of these tests and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Sherry Delost

P.S. Last summer we moved to Pennsylvania from Florida and in Florida they have the FCAT testing which students take every year beginning in the third grade and they must pass to get their diplomas. From our experience there the teachers are teaching to the test and the teachers will tell you this.