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OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION  
HARRISBURG, PA

Date April 17, 2008

The Honorable Kim Kaufman  
Address (see reverse side)

Dear Kim:

I have recently become aware of the Pennsylvania 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 a 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 for those who have test phobias, and will lead teachers to teach to a particular test.

As a parent and a taxpayer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 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,

Michele Foster