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**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Robert Williams [rwilliam@wasd.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2008 9:57 AM  
**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** GCA

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this e-mail as an educator to oppose any further torture of our state's students by means of competency exams. We have given numerous valuable instructional hours to date in order for students in grades 3-12 to be tested and in many instances, this testing would be considered torture. You have made no exceptions for students who have been born with learning disabilities and you are not in the room to watch them sweat, then *break down and sob due to their frustration in not being able to answer the questions on the test in front of them.* They are humiliated by what you call the PSSA or as some would call it "Pennsylvania's Humiliation and Downgrading of Students." Why should we continue to humiliate more children at the high school level by stating to them that if they cannot pass a paper and pencil test, they cannot graduate? All of the educational assessment literature demands that educators assess students by various forms and measures or assessment. Now the PDE, our governing educational body, is stating that if a child does not do well on a one-time paper and pencil high stakes assessment, he or she cannot graduate from high school. What educational sense does this make?

I appeal to your humanness and educational consideration that you not pass the GCA into law. You will be harming our future generations, not helping them. Please exam New York state Regency outcomes if you would like further proof of this.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this.

Sincerely,  
Robert Williams, Ph.D.

Robert L. Williams, Ph.D.  
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Chair of Teacher Supervision and Evaluation  
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