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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

June 4, 2008

State Board of Education
333 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear board members:

As the a taxpayer **AND A PARENT OF THREE**, I am writing to **PROTEST** graduation competency assessments as a tool to ensure our high school graduates are adequately prepared for life after high school.

As you know, Pennsylvania invests billions of dollars annually into building and maintaining a world-class public education system. My tax dollars are among those invested, and my children have benefited. **WE ARE OVER TESTING OUR STUDENTS**

My concern is some students **INCLUDING ONE OF MY OWN DID NOT RECEIVE** the full benefits of **EDUCATION BECAUSE OF BEING OVER TESTED**. One of my worst fears as a parent is that my child will receive a high school diploma and head out into the world believing he is prepared, only to learn that **THE REAL WORLD DOES NOT GIVE YOU STANDARDIZED TESTS AND/OR REMEDIAL HELP TO GET THROUGH THEM**.

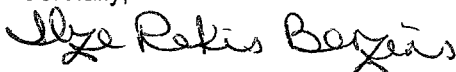
UNFortunately, Pennsylvania has **NOT** made significant progress in recent years towards ensuring our students are prepared for the increasingly competitive environment they will face upon graduation.

I wholeheartedly **OBJECT TO** your efforts to make GCAs a reality.

IF THE GOVERNOR IS SET TO PUSH THIS THROUGH, I WOULD HOPE THAT THEN THE PSSA WOULD BE ELIMINATED. SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOW HAVE ABOUT 30 DAYS WHICH INVOLVE PSSA TESTING. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE PREPARATION TIME OF UNPACKING AND PACKING, PLACING LABELS ON TEST BOOKLETS, REORGANIZING THE DAILY SCHEDULE FOR EVERYONE, ETC.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE MAKING THE DECISIONS ABOUT STANDARDIZED TESTING IN PENNSYLVANIA ARE CLUELESS TO THE IMPACT THE TESTING HAS ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THE STUDENTS.

Cordially,



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Cc: Tom Murt
Stewart Greenleaf
Gov. Edward Rendell