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Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Mr. David Sumner
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Email: dsumner@irrc.state.pa.us

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing as a concerned parent in the Radnor Township School District to share my concerns about the recent approval of revisions to Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessments) by the State Board of Education. Specifically, I wish to express my opposition to the Keystone Exam graduation requirement.

The Radnor community expects that the students graduating from our schools are college and work-ready. To accomplish that objective, our graduation requirements already exceed the PA Core Standards. The culture of high expectations in our community, combined with the skill and dedication of our staff, prepares virtually all our students for college and careers. With a 99% graduation rate of which 95% choose to attend advanced schooling, Radnor is obviously offering a rigors of curriculum. Guided by "local control" Radnor retains the ability to choose curriculum instruction and assessment tools that benefit our students and meet our community's high standards.

I join with the Radnor Township School Board in opposing the Chapter 4 revisions and ask that the Keystone graduation requirement be rescinded. The "one-size fits all" approach of the State Board of Education when it comes to the Keystone Exams is detrimental to students and staff alike. For students who already successful according to every other meaningful, objective measure (PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP exams) the Keystone Exams offer no benefit. For the taxpayers, the costs of these tests and any required remedial activities far exceed any value to our district.

As a parent I would respectfully ask the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to remove language requiring the unfunded mandate of passing Keystone graduation exams from the Chapter 4 revisions when it comes up for vote in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Debra Santamaria