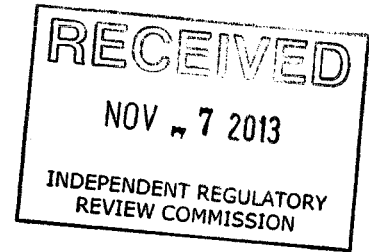


2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Dennis Ahearn <burtonport67@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:55 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Proposed Chapter 4 Regulations



I strongly agree with Senator Andy Dinniman:

8 Reasons Why We Oppose the Keystone Graduation Exams
By State Senator Andrew E. Dinniman, D.Ed.
Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee

1. It is fundamentally wrong for three standardized tests to determine a student's high school graduation. The implementation of high-stakes graduation exams runs contrary to all of our efforts to reform public education, recognize different learning styles and embrace an individualized approach. If the Keystone Graduation Exams are approved, high school students starting with current freshman (Class of 2017) will face the possibility of passing all their classes but failing a Keystone Exam and not getting a diploma.

2. It is foolhardy to spend more than \$65 million a year on testing while more and more of our school districts teeter on the verge of bankruptcy, despite school property taxes being at an all-time high. In Philadelphia, for example, schools face class sizes of nearly 50 students, have been forced to close their libraries and even struggle to afford textbooks and basic instructional materials.

3. It is unfair to stamp "failure" on the backs of teachers, schools and communities that lack the fiscal resources to adequately prepare students to pass these exams. Why should we expect students who are set up for failure to stick with the program? And how can we expect to revitalize economically distressed communities when their schools and students are labeled as substandard and second-rate?

4. It is irresponsible to implement a program of graduation exams that will result in the largest unfunded mandate in the past 50 years. If a student fails any of the three required Keystone Exams, the school district must provide supplementary instruction and student can take the test two more times. If a student continues to fail the exam, the student is entitled to a project-based assessment with a teacher. The Pennsylvania Department of Education provides no funding whatsoever for remediation costs. It is conservatively estimated that it will result in an unfunded mandate of \$300 million a year. The buck will no doubt be passed onto taxpayers in the form of massive school property tax increases.

This is unconscionable!

Thank you,
Dennis Ahearn
West Chester, PA 19380

p.s. I especially like the way that you try to make it as difficult as possible to submit opinions to you; it's much like our outgoing Governor and Republican Senator

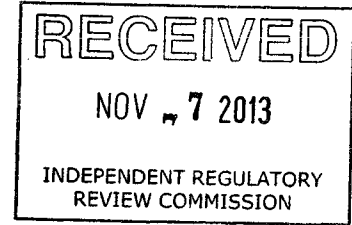
A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

Douglas Adams

2974

Cooper, Kathy

-
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:11 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: IRRC Website - New Message



From: ContactForm@state.pa.us [<mailto:ContactForm@state.pa.us>]
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Krista

Last Name: Johnson

City/State: Downingtown, PA

Email: kristablush@gmail.com

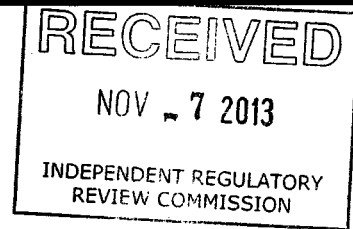
Subject: Keystone Exams

Message:

Please consider changing the Keystone Exam requirements for graduation. Some children do not test well. They often have good grades but during testing freeze up. Those children potentially could not be given a diploma simply because they do not show proficient standards on their tests. Thank you!

2976
Cooper, Kathy

From: Cynthia White <bc4wheeln@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:55 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core



Dear Mr. Sumner:

After researching into Common Core State Standards initiative or otherwise known as PA Core Standards, I am alarmed at the consequences of this on our students and our economy. Here are some of my concerns.

- This transformation will no longer give us local control over our education
- It will result in massive unfunded mandates and Pennsylvania already has severe budgetary problems, including an expanding pension crisis
- Some experts are saying \$645 Million to implement CCSS
- A local school district has said that 17 days will be spent on assessments this year and other local school districts will have even more testing days. This will put pressure on teachers to teach to the test - an educationally unsound practice
- **Data mining** of all our children something I am strongly opposed to
- Indoctrination of our children - Just recently exposed on Fox News <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/11/06/common-core-lessons-blasted-for-sneaking-politics-into-elementary-classrooms/>

I strongly urge you to stop the implementation of this disastrous initiative because if we get too deep, we may not be able to dig our way out. Our children should not be used as an educational experiment.

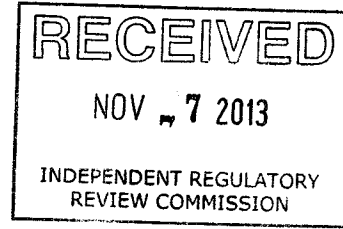
Dr. Peg Lusik has an excellent presentation with facts and documents about this program.
<http://foundedontruth.com/index.php/common-core-info>

~Cynthia White
Chester County

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Jaime Urban <jurban79@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:58 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Chapter 4 regulations



I am writing to ask you to please reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations.
Thank you,
Jaime Urban

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Leister, Michael <mileister@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:17 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: Larkin, Stephanie
Subject: Chapter 4 Regulations Support Letter
Attachments: IRRC letter 110713.pdf



Good Afternoon –

Attached is a letter from Julia Hearthway, Secretary of Labor & Industry, and David Malone, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board in support of the Chapter 4 regulations enacting the Pennsylvania Core Standards. A hard copy of the letter is being sent via interoffice mail.

Additional letters of support may be forthcoming for other members of the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Michael Leister | Administrative Assistant
Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board
651 Boas Street, 12th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17121
Phone: 717.705.7650 | Fax: 717.705.3799
mileister@pa.gov | www.paworkforce.state.pa.us