

Cooper, Kathy

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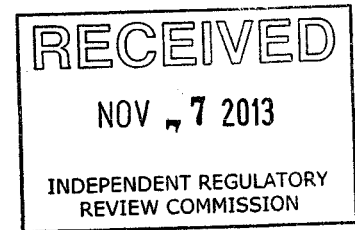
From: RICKY L. SWALM <rswalm@temple.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 1:04 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: DinnimanSenate@gmail.com; John Hellmann; Robin Kaliner; Chris McCune; Joyce Chester; Sue Tiernan; Scanlon, James R
Subject: Keystone exams

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing in opposition to the implementation of the Keystone Exams. While I adamantly support accountability and academic standards, I cannot support the Keystone Exams for we continue to erode local control, burden school districts with unfunded mandates, and against all sanity continue to remove the relevance of diversity and individuality. Someone in Harrisburg has to know that there are ways to meet the demands of accountability without the heavy hand of centralized control. I served previously on our local school board (just got re-elected on Tuesday), helped write the Health, Safety, and Physical Education standards, consult with ETS in Princeton on assessments, and have been teaching for over 35 years so I certainly have a frame of reference for my concerns. I implore you to stand against the Keystone Exams and squelch the Department of Education's attempt to trivialize the entire education students receive in their local school districts in favor of three exam scores as a substitute for those children's comprehensive educations.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this most important decision.

Rick



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