

The Honorable David Levdansky
122 Second Ave.
Elizabeth, PA 15037-1549

Dear Representative Levdansky

I am requesting that you oppose the Graduation Competency Assessment Tests (GCA). Testing students in their senior year to determine whether or not a high school diploma is issued is much too late. Our society cannot afford to put young people out on the street with almost no chance of earning a decent living. Children must be tested much earlier and more frequently, in order that remedial action may be taken.

We already have such a testing system, Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA), and already know which students and which districts are not testing at the proficient level. Practicing for and administering the test already impacts instructional time by 25 days per school year at a cost of \$32 million. The Graduation Competency Assessment Test will cost an estimated \$50 million to develop, and another \$40 million for annual testing, reduce instructional time, and further impact our world competitiveness. The tax payers, the children and our country just cannot afford this.

Senator Jane Orie introduced Senate Bill 281, and passage of this bill will stop this waste and excessiveness. If these educational funds are available, let's spend them on improving the kids and the faltering school districts.

During the 2007-2008 Legislative Session, HB 2452 was introduced by Representative Saylor, and died in committee. Please co-sponsor and support the equivalent House Bill which will again be introduced by Representative Saylor this session.

We will not forget.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____