

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for SB 358. I want to thank Senators Manning and Fedor and the other cosponsors for bringing forth this important legislation. My name is Brittany Alexander and I am beginning my 24th year as an educator. In all of those years, which span various educational settings and grade levels, I have experienced a fair amount of changes. None of them, while wholly challenging at the time, can begin to compare to the reality of schooling amidst a pandemic. We felt the enormity of our disparate funding system when school doors were closed. We worried about how many of our students would eat, stay healthy, and connect through remote learning. These concerns remain as we start the 2020-2021 school year.

While we can argue the validity, reliability, and usefulness of federal and state mandated testing, state report cards, and retention or promotion tied to tests in a “regular” school year, these arguments are now moot as nothing in this moment is “regular.” Continuing such accountability measures in an irregular time such as this is absurd and inhumane. I urge the committee’s support of SB 358. Thank you for your time and your consideration.