A R E S O L U T I O N

To urge the United States Secretary of Education to extend the school assessment and accountability waivers issued for the 2019-2020 school year through the 2020-2021 school year due to the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Education, in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, granted states waivers for the 2019-2020 school year to bypass school assessment and accountability measures required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act; and

WHEREAS, The burden of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic negatively impacted Ohio schools in the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is ongoing and will negatively impact Ohio schools during the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, The health and safety of Ohio's students, teachers, administrators, and parents should be the top
WHEREAS, Decisions regarding the upcoming school year must be based on what is in the best interest of students; and

WHEREAS, Learning must continue for all students; and

WHEREAS, Services typically provided in person must occur differently during times of necessary social distancing; and

WHEREAS, The digital divide and information gap further disadvantage high-poverty students and their teachers and schools; and

WHEREAS, Mandated assessments divert valuable time and money from teaching and learning; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 133rd General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the United States Secretary of Education to extend the school assessment and accountability waivers granted for the 2019-2020 school year through the 2020-2021 school year due to the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Education, to Ohio's Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.