Written Testimony Submitted To The House Education Committee
Kristi Barker, Ohio Educator Leader Cadre and elementary principal
In Opposition To H.B. 74
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It is on behalf of educators across the state that I share with you my concern for additional legislation in relation to student assessment. For the past 3 years I have worked with teachers across the country developing a test worth taking.

The vision we share is Ohio students learning comparable standards as others across the nation and having meaningful data for teachers to improve instruction from the assessments that match those goals. As with any "new" structure the implementation year can be rough. I believe in the integrity in which these standards and assessments were developed. Professional educators have come together with the expectation for all students to think deeply and purposefully about the content they are delivered.

I know that you too must want our future leaders and citizens to be able to communicate and assimilate information to be an effective catalyst in the world.I would agree that my profession is undergoing monumental change and the timeline of implementation has negatively affected the potential gains. Changing the standards, the evaluation and assessments within a short amount of time has challenged educators to perform their job in a way that higher education did not prepare them for, but they have trudged on to the best of their ability. School districts have invested their own time and efforts with professional development plans to support their teachers while developing their craft to achieve these growing expectations.The majority of educators support Ohio's New Learning Standards.

As an administrator I am excited about seeing teachers evaluate lessons together and raise the expectation for student achievement. I would agree that, on the surface, it appears that additional time will be spent assessing. What this system recognizes is that students need more than one opportunity to show their understanding of material. It validates that teachers expose students to content and then revisit at a deeper level. I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I have dedicated our passion for learning towards. My core belief of what students should know and be able to do is reflected through the standards implemented and the monitoring of the progress of these goals through benchmarked assessment.

I would encourage you to support the hours of work Ohio educators have dedicated to developing exceptional lessons to prepare students for this new level of educational expectation. We must continue to persevere towards educational excellence. Support your teaching professionals and the time dedicated to preparing student to achieve a new depth of learning.