HOUSE Bill 74- PROPONENT TESTIMONY
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Education Committee

Chairman Hayes, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking member Fedor, Education Committee members.

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony on HB 74 today.

My name is Jaime Boysel. I am a school counselor at Possum Middle School in Springfield Ohio. We just completed two weeks of PARCC testing at our school. As the school counselor, I am in charge of the PARCC testing at my school. I want to fill you in on some of the facts regarding this test. Let me note that before we started, I kept thinking to myself "this will be ok. It will not be as bad as it sounds." After 2 weeks, it is much worse than thought, and I'm starting to see how it is affecting our kids.

I contacted my State Representative, my State Senator, and our Governor to let them know that someone in our government has to stand up for our children and say "enough is enough." This is TOO much testing. Notice I said TOO much. I am fine with the idea of keeping Ohio's schools accountable, but this is absolutely ridiculous.

Here is what happened at my school: We started testing on Monday 2/24. We are STILL testing today, March 9th; and I will NOT be done testing until Wednesday, March 11th. I will have 4 weeks off, and then we will start ROUND 2 of testing with another 2 weeks lost. I had to use my specials teachers and intervention specialists to help me run small groups for my IEP kids. Both sets of teachers have NOT had their classes (which means not working with their own kids) for the past 10 days. Please note that my intervention specialists have NOT worked with their IEP kids for 10 days because they are helping me proctor this ridiculous test!

I had a 3rd grade girl in tears on Tuesday because she couldn't finish the test in time. I have kids throwing up and sick in the office refusing to go home because they are terrified that they will not finish the 'test' in time and get a failing grade. My regular teachers have not had a normal schedule with their students for 10 days. In those 10 days (and the previous month leading up to it) all they were able to do was 'prepare' for this test.

I had a gifted student take the computer-based test, and she couldn't even get it done in time because of the computer tools she had to use just to type her answers.

I had a 7th grader go up to my principal and tell her that she hasn't really learned anything since the middle of January because they have been preparing for the test, taking the test, reviewing for round 2 of the test, and then taking the next part of the test.

I have put in 40+ HOURS alone getting the tests ready to be put out to my students. I am the COUNSELOR. This means I have not counseled one child for 10 days. I have kids who are being abused, who are going through depression, are cutters, are diagnosed with anxiety, etc.... but not one of those kids has had me in the past 10 days because of these tests.

I could go on and on about these tests, but I won't. I'm actually going to challenge you. I challenge you to come to my school for the next round of testing as Representative Koehler has agreed to do. I WANT you or someone from each of your offices to shadow a teacher from your area in the next round to see what these kids are going through.

I ask that each of you talk to a teacher and get their opinion or at least go see what this test looks like 'down in the trenches'- where the REAL people are working with this test. This is horrible what Ohio is doing to our children. I am here today to stand up for my students.

I come before you today in support of HB 74. I don't know if it will truly fix the problems we are facing, but I support this effort to begin changing the testing issues we are facing in our schools. Chairman Hayes, thank you for allowing me to testify. I would be glad to take any questions you may have about my experience, at this time.