Chairman Hayes, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Christina Frisbie, I am a fourth grade teacher and a mother of 10 year old twins. I am writing as a proponent of HB 74 to alleviate some of the testing time and allow the appropriate instructional time for our students/children to master the essential content and skills to be successful. As educators we want to create life-long learners not frustrated test takers. Students are frustrated, teachers are frustrated, and parents are frustrated. There has to be a better way to assess our students/children of Ohio.

As an educator of Ohio students I am not against assessments, I assess my students daily in a developmentally appropriate way. My school district has spent from February 23, 2015 until March 17, 2015 administering the PARCC Performance Based Assessment (PBA). Different grade levels tested each day in my building. We are an intermediate building of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. During those testing weeks, all of our instruction time is compromised, with schedules changing, teachers being pulled to administer tests, and small group instruction being eliminated during those weeks for test coverage. The PBA is supposed to be administered after 75% of a school year is taught, when actually only about 55% of instructional days of a school year are completed. The End of the Year Assessment (EOY) is supposed to be administered after 90% of a school year is completed. However, only about 78% of instructional days are complete. There are only 13 instructional days in our school calendar between completing the PBA to when the window opens for the EOY. The EOY is administered beginning April 13, 2015. The administration of this testing system is Educational Malpractice. Our students are being robbed of instructional days for testing days.

Who decides what order to teach the content in, or what order it will be assessed? What is the essential 90% (actually 78%) of the academic content that has to be taught by the EOY assessment, or the 75% (actually 55%) taught by PBA? These are just a few of the frustrations that I have as an educator. I want to be teaching life-long learners not preparing students to take tests that do not measure how successful they will be in their life.

Thank you for allowing me to address some of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Christina Frisbie

4th Grade Teacher

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