CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Chairman Hayes, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the House Education Committee, thank for the opportunity to provide written testimony related to House Bill 74.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is committed to accountability for student and teacher performance in order to move toward more rigorous standards of student learning. While we appreciate the efforts within this bill to provide local control, there is a need to provide stability for students and teachers with regard to assessments. We cannot support the prohibition of multi-state consortia from being eligible to submit RFPs for future assessment proposals. While the roll out of the PARCC assessments has not been perfect, we must allow for some stability in the short term, as any rush towards new assessments in SY2015-16 will negatively impact our ability to provide a stable target for our student growth measures. We advocate for removing the prohibition of multi-state consortia as the ODE continues to evaluate all assessments.

Eliminating the English Language Arts II and Geometry end-of-course examinations will be problematic for our school district's efforts to hold students and teachers accountable. These perpetual changes in assessments create uncertainty for our students and staff whose progress and evaluation is influenced by these continued changes. Similarly, providing equivalent examinations by the State Board of Education may cause discrepancies between school districts. Promoting different standards/measures for different districts will cause an unfair and inconsistent student performance framework that may make it difficult to calculate Value Add from high schools all together and provide for inconsistencies in the Ohio Report Card.

Finally, state mandated revisions of the framework for the evaluation of teachers will have substantial consequences for districts like Cleveland who worked hard with stakeholders to move away from seniority based evaluation system. Our Teacher Evaluation System has relied in part on use of student learning objectives and we would like to see this option maintained. Proposed changes in HB 74 may move us backwards and cause instability in a district undergoing reform.

We encourage the Education Committee to require the ODE to provide a greater opportunity for practitioners including superintendents, principals, teachers and parents to provide feedback on the development of this bill in addition to the development of policies already included in HB 74. Thank you for the continued work to support education in the state of Ohio.

Humbly submitted,

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