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Senate Bill 216: Opponent Testimony  
December 6, 2017

Chairman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Timothy Cosgrove. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in regards to Senate Bill (SB) 216 on behalf of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

I am sharing our opposition to SB 216 which would eliminate the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and increases the minimum number of students ("N-size") in a group for student performance data to be reported. Additionally, while we understand the intent of the legislation is deregulation, there are several instances where the regulation isn't eliminated, but instead shifted, from the state to a district.

The KRA was developed by experts and was instituted to help establish a baseline for children that enter Kindergarten across multiple domains including reading, language, and social emotional development. A statewide assessment is critically important for Ohio to understand and plan for the needs of children. The KRA allows Ohio the ability to track performance and better recognize the relationship between Kindergarten readiness and a student's ability to read at grade level by the third grade, which is a predictor of future education attainment. Cuyahoga County is investing \$22 million to expand access to high-quality preschool and the KRA is a critical tool for us to measure the impact of these investments. Now is not the time to roll back 5 years of thoughtful, research-based work that is vital to early childhood learning and K-3 success.

We strongly oppose the proposal to increase the minimum N-size from ten to 30 for student performance data to be reported. As part of Ohio's Every Student Succeeds plan request for comments, CMSD applauded the Ohio Department of Education for considering ways to adjust the N-size for subgroup reporting to ensure that schools and districts are held accountable for all students in their care. We are concerned that an increase would unfairly impact urban school districts as well as present problems where students are overlooked and miss out on meaningful accountability and improvement measures.

Other provisions in SB 216 CMSD takes issue with include, (1) prohibiting a student participating in the College Credit Plus Program from enrolling in a course at a college campus or online if a comparable course is offered on the campus of the student's secondary school, (2) prohibiting the use of shared attribution and, (3) consolidation of licensure bands from three to two.

I want to thank you for your time considering this testimony and I'm happy to address any questions you have.