

Chair Blessing and members of the committee,

As students, we contribute so much time and energy into earning grades that will represent us well when graduating and applying to colleges. With high school already being stressful, excessive testing like the AIR Test become a factor to anxiety and discouragement, which taint a student's ability to perform well and receive scores that accurately represent their knowledge.

Personally, I am a student who strives for all A's and invests a lot of time into my education, however, tests like the AIR Test make me feel as though I have not prepared enough and that my hard work throughout the school year was not sufficient enough. I did not struggle with anxiety or the feeling of being overwhelmed until the required state tests that I have faced in high school. Testing affects my ability to balance and organize my in-school responsibilities as it interferes with my academics and personal life, making management and balance seem practically impossible.

In a student's junior and senior years specifically, students shift their focus to the ACT or a career pathway as graduation approaches. Students should be able to focus on college and/or career preparation rather than having to deal with the stress of state tests affecting their ability to graduate. We already invest so much time and energy into our academics resulting in the feeling of being constantly drained, therefore, enforcing testing on top of the weight we already have to manage makes students that are so destined to succeed feel defeated.

A student's knowledge should be evaluated properly and fairly.

Passing HB239 will reduce the thought of failure that many students are bound to. Stress will be relieved and anxiety will be alleviated. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emillienne Alapini