



May 27, 2020

Ben Williams  
College Board, Senior Director, Global Policy & External Relations  
Interested Party Testimony  
Re: HB 239

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

My name is Ben Williams and I am submitting written interested party testimony for HB 239 on behalf of the College Board. The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education.

Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

While we understand the rationale behind reducing testing times, we caution policies that allow for an opt-out on the SAT/ACT. Test optional policies such as the provision proposed in this bill fail to identify students who could succeed in college. Students most negatively impacted by provisions like this tend to be from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Countless research shows that statewide college entrance assessment policies encourage students to attend college who otherwise would have never considered attending. Bottom line is, statewide SAT/ACT testing ensures that students aren't being missed, especially those who are from low-income backgrounds.

Sincerely,

Ben Williams