

79TH HOUSE DISTRICT

PARTS OF CLARK COUNTY

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COMMITTEES

CHAIR: AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
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State Representative Kyle Koehler Ohio House of Representatives

Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee – thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 67.

House Bill 67 offered by me and Rep. Adam Bird does two things:

- (1) It waives the state-only testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.
- (2) It requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to seek a waiver for all federally required tests for this school year.

Testing is important. This bill doesn't change that. The state and federally required tests provide useful metrics to hold schools accountable.

In any other school year, under normal circumstances, I would not be here asking to waive testing requirements.

However, this is not any other school year.

I am not asking to waive testing requirements because we don't know how testing will go. I think we know it is going to be bad. Students are going to be behind.

I authored this bill at the request of Superintendents and teachers in my district. I believe many of you have heard from your school districts, as well. They believe that when students come back full time in March, they need to concentrate on teaching material rather than testing.

I am asking this committee and the General Assembly to help decide what is best for *students* as they enter the last 60 days of the 20-21 school year. Should they be spending time testing or spending time learning the material they will need to succeed in the 21-22 school year?

I will allow my colleague and former school Superintendent to explain in more detail what this means to K-12 schools in Ohio.

Again, Madame Chairwoman – thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 67. I believe this bill must move as quickly as possible. It is for that reason I have made my testimony as simple as the bill. It is focused on one issue only: state mandated testing. I hope the simplicity of the bill will allow it to move quickly to the House Floor and over to the Senate where I have already talked to the Education Chair about passage.

For this bill to have any effect, I believe it needs to be signed by the Governor, with an emergency clause, by the first week of March, at the latest.

Thank you and I will be happy to take any questions after Rep. Bird's testimony.