

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 2/12/20

Name: Christine Palumbo, PhD

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Lakewood City Schools

Position/Title: Director of Teaching & Learning

Address: 17925 Lake Ave

City: Lakewood State: OH Zip: 44107

Best Contact Telephone: 216-227-5113 Email: christine.palumbo@lakewoodcityschools.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 67

Specific Issue: High Stakes Testing

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 min

Please provide a brief statement on your position: During the Pandemic please eliminate state testing.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS Department of Teaching and Learning

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February 12, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of House Bill (HB) 67. I am Christine Palumbo PhD, Director of Teaching and Learning for Lakewood City Schools (LCS).

We are an urban ring district just west of Cleveland with nearly 50% free and reduced lunch, a diverse English Learner population with numerous languages spoken in the homes of students including (Nepali, Burmese, Karen, Arabic) to name only a few.

During the Pandemic we have done our best to do good things for our families. We have worked tirelessly to ensure access to meals, to devices and to the internet. We have partnered with PCs for People and obtained grant funds to purchase hot spots for families. We have worked with community partners to create full day child care and after several remote months we have returned to in person learning using a hybrid model to support 6 foot distancing.

This has been a time of success and challenges for us. Our challenges during remote learning have included providing training for staff on teaching remotely, power outages, Zoom freezing, student disengagement. Challenges during in person learning have included lack of availability to find substitute teachers when teachers are ill, and an inability to find paraprofessionals to fill open positions (adults do not want to work in schools during a pandemic). Even though we have returned in person students are not currently attending school every day. We have not been able to cover as many standards as we would in a non pandemic year. We have been successful in offering elearning and remote learning options for families that do not want to return in person. We have been successful in returning students in person using a hybrid model.

HB 67 is so critical because as families are struggling and students are struggling with new modes of learning that they did not choose. They need to know that we are willing to be flexible with them. It is also crucial that we devote all of your in person time to instruction rather than assessment. High stakes testing takes time away from instruction and is exhausting for students.

Thank you to Representatives Koehler and Bird for sponsoring the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of HB 67.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CPalumbo'.

Christine Palumbo, PhD
Director of Teaching and Learning