

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 67.

My name is Larry Carey and I am an educator in Columbus City Schools. Since March 13th, our students have been working from home. The Pandemic has opened up so many disparities in our school system, with lack of technology being one of the biggest hurdles. Our children were rewarded laptops and hot spots but most received them later than the roll out period. Other students had to serve as a babysitter and were unable to complete work due to the now added responsibilities. You would be surprised about the numerous students left home alone and lack of nutrition at home. Schools are essential part of feeding our students and it has been proven that students who eat, test better.

The reason for this testimony is so that you may consider canceling testing this academic school year. I hear the words anxiety and mental health thrown around for reasons to bring our students back. Why isn't this being applied for these test? What do you think our students feel when they have to come back to the classroom and a week or so later are expected to take this test? Many of them already feel it's worthless and won't try. A few will try and may get overwhelmed because they haven't learned what being ask on the test.

Instead of forcing a meaningless test, why not allow the Educators to educate? We lost almost year of in person instruction. This is added stress on both the student and teacher. So now that schools are reopening and we are back to in person instruction, let us teach. Let's us start up our intervention again in person. Many students missed this. We as educators missed this interaction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry Carey