

55th House District

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Gayle L. Manning State Representative

Committees

Primary & Secondary Education, Chair
Commerce & Labor
Correctional Institution Inspection
Committee
Higher Education & Career Readiness

Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for your time and attention regarding House Bill 73.

During my 37 years in an elementary school classroom, I experienced first-hand how stressful standardized testing can be for students. In order to prepare students for the standardized test, teachers often give local diagnostic assessments. I believe so much weight is placed on a score of a standardized test, and creativity in the classroom is dwindling. Every student is different and not every student will excel on a standardized test. The standards will still be taught even if there is no state assessment in the subject.

House Bill 73 would reduce the time students spend on state-mandated testing by doing the following:

- Beginning with the Class of 2022, eliminates a requirement that high school students take a nationally standardized college assessment for graduation
- Beginning with the Class of 2023, combines the American Government and American History end-of-course exams into one exam
 - Current law requires high school students take an American History end-of-course exam and an American Government end-of-course exam
- Ensures school districts convene a work group to study how much time students spend on testing
- Permits a local school district to exceed the testing caps in current law by passing a resolution
- Ensures the Ohio Department of Education publishes a report on the amount of time students spend on testing

One change made to House Bill 73 is the inclusion of a provision that ensures students are not retained in the third grade based on their ELA (English Language Arts) test. The promotion of a third grade student to fourth grade, in current law, largely depends on the student's third grade ELA score. Students in third grade will still receive interventions in order to ensure they are on track for reading, but removing the high stakes nature of the third grade ELA test will ease stress on students.

I will turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Crawley, and we will take questions after her testimony.