

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chairman Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and fellow Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for your time today and for your consideration of House Bill 497. This piece of legislation would positively change Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee Law by removing the consequence of grade level retention, as well as eliminating the fall administration of the Ohio State Test in English Language Arts for third grade students.

As an Ohio Educator, I have witnessed first hand the hard work of our teachers, students and families as we collaborate to support the reading achievement of our youngest students. Excessive standardized testing and stress due to fear of retention consequences have negatively impacted the educational experience in Ohio.

Please place trust in Ohio's Educators to do our jobs to support the reading success of our students. We have high expectations for learning for all of our students, and strive daily to provide high quality instruction and intervention to support them in their reading journey.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 497 and for considering these changes that will positively impact Ohio's students.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Knostman  
Dublin, Ohio