

Columbus Office:

77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Contact Information:

Office: (614) 466 5141
Email: Rep53@ohiohouse.gov

Joe Miller

State Representative House District 53

I would first like to thank Chairwoman Manning, Vice-Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 470 to require the Department of Education to audit state assessment spending in our schools.

Transparency and accountability in regards to assessment spending are important because they allow us to understand where public funds are used and how effectively they are being spent. State testing in Ohio is an effort that requires a myriad of resources, including third party testing distributors, teachers, tutors, on-site testing coordinators, along with updated software and hardware. While schools need some amount of discretion in their spending, there must be a balance in accountability with how schools utilize state funds. Currently our state does not have the legal framework to properly audit state testing in our schools.

I have worked in education for a good portion of my professional life and have seen firsthand that different schools need different resources. One school may need more computer hardware where another school may be lacking in on-site testing coordinators. Education is not a one size fits all field, where the same set of resources can solve each school's issues the same way. We, as officials who owe our constituents accountability and clarity, need a more effective mechanism for measuring how funds are being used regarding our state testing system.

This bill will introduce a requirement that the State Department of Education and Workforce shall conduct state testing audits on any school that gives state assessments such as public, STEM, community, and chartered non-public schools. The state will examine spending that is used on each of the following: state assessments, state practice assessments, computer hardware and software, information technology, consultants, personnel, and the professional development of teachers. The audits will be holistic examinations of costs directly used or

associated with the above resources. We are not alone in this fight for more state-assessment transparency, other state legislatures such as the New York State Assembly, Illinois General Assembly, and the Tennessee General Assembly have all pursued similar bills in the past decade.

House Bill 470 will shine light on our state testing system. This bill will lend public officials information as to the performance of different testing strategies. If we wish to hold our students and schools to high standards in the classroom, we need to start by looking into the pocketbook.

Thank you all for allowing me to provide testimony today on House Bill 470. I would be happy to answer any questions.