

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Ed Committee,

Thank You for allowing me to testify today. My name is Leslie Davanzo. I am a teacher in Youngstown City Schools, Mahoning County, and have been with the district for the past 33 years. I have taught middle school and high school and only one year in the elementary school. I currently have a 16 year old in the Springfield Local Schools. I strongly support HB 67.

This Pandemic has been a chaotic mess to all of our schools and our children in the United States. This Pandemic has affected our students not only academically but mentally. I feel as though people who are making decisions to continue with state testing have no idea how much this Pandemic has affected our children. I hope that my voice will make a difference.

To begin with, my daughter is a Junior at Springfield Local High School in Mahoning county. This is an amazing school system with an outstanding Superintendent, Thomas Yazvac. This is a man that believes students need to be in school 5 days a week getting an education. This is a man who believes in education and did what he needed to do to prepare our students to return to school. Even though students returned to class they were faced with cases of Covid and many students had to be quarantined. My 16 year old daughter had to be quarantined 3 different times. My daughter struggles with remote education. She would cry everyday on quarantine because she felt as though she was not learning. Not cry but sob everyday. There were many days on remote learning she would get kicked off of remote because our WIFI is not the greatest. We live in a rural area and share WIFI with the farmer neighbor across the road. While she was kicked off she missed valuable teaching time and no teacher would repeat what she missed while knocked off line. There were several days the Geometry teacher did not turn her camera on. Again, my child had to try to get in contact with the librarian to ask her to contact the teacher to let her know the camera in that geometry class was off. As everyone can imagine this took up valuable learning time that my child missed. Again the sobbing from my child broke my heart. My child also missed 3 days of her government class on remote due to the regular teacher retiring in November, the substitute had no idea how to set up learning for the remote students. These are two classes that my child has to be tested on during standardized testing. Being on remote has caused her numerous times to miss valuable lessons because she was not allowed to be in school 3 different times for 10-14 days. How is that fair to my child to be held accountable for a test in order to graduate when she was forbidden from entering the school building? What hurts the most are the people forcing these state tests on elementary and high school students who have no idea how this pandemic has affected their education. I am sure not one of these people have sat in on a remote class to see how horrific remote learning has been to our children. I have so many personal stories of remote learning as a teacher.

I have taught high school for the past 10 years in Youngstown City Schools. Our "CEO" chose not to prepare our students to return to the classroom until he was forced to by Governor Dewine in March. I guess this is what happens when you don't hire a Superintendent and hire a CEO to run a school district. All I can say is what an embarrassment it has been to say my students have been taught on remote. I wish people who make these life altering educational decisions would actually get involved in the classroom and education. I wish these people would sit in a remote class to see how horrific this has been to the education of our children. I have been placed in a 5th grade classroom this year without any explanation. So I was placed in a classroom of 5th graders without any prior experience. What I have witnessed with remote learning is an embarrassment to the state of Ohio. To begin with, there are students in my class I have no idea how they sound when they talk because their computer lags so

much. I can never understand about what 5 of my students are saying on a good day. I have students who have between 5-10 brothers and sisters at home all sharing a hot spot at the same time trying to do remote learning. I have a student who was kicked off his computer 27 times in one day. I have students who are at home watching their siblings. I watched one of my students wrestle his brother on the couch. I cant even tell you how many have fallen asleep in front of their computers. Attendance has been a disaster. We have many who don't come back after lunch. So many students cant even read out loud because their computers lag so much. I wish someone who makes these testing decisions would sit through my remote class for at least a half a day. But here I am begging to eliminate testing or make exceptions for high school testing. If this remote disaster is happening in 5th grade I cant even imagine how bad it is in the high school. How can we as professionals with a conscience even think about testing our high school students and hold them accountable for a worthless test during a Pandemic. This is their future. How can we say "Oh Sorry you cant graduate because you didn't pass this worthless state test". It is sad that this is something that has to be discussed. I invite anyone who thinks they know anything about education to visit my remote classroom.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote YES on this important bill. Thank You again for the opportunity to testify.

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