



**Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45**

**House Bill (H.B.) 40: Waive State Testing for 2020-21 School Year
February 9, 2020**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and fellow members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 40 to waive State Testing for the 2020-21 School year, with my joint sponsor Rep. Jeff Crossman.

Under normal circumstances, the end of year assessments put an enormous burden on our teachers and students. Throughout this pandemic, our schools have been faced with many challenges. High Stake testing should not be one of them. Early in the spring semester, Ohio's classrooms begin spending hours of instructional time preparing for testing instead of learning. During this pandemic, where many schools are learning through a hybrid model with sometimes spotty technology, our students should be dedicated to learning - not on costly tests.

House Bill 40 does three main things and builds off of the language included in House Bill 197 last spring.

- First, it waives the state assessments and requires the Department of Education to seek a federal waiver for the testing requirements.
- Second, House Bill 40 ensures that students who do not take the assessments are including in official enrollment counts, and remain eligible to reapply for either EdChoice Voucher or the Jon Peterson Specials Need Scholarship if applicable.
- Lastly, and this is where House Bull 40 differs from other bills before this committee, it holds school districts harmless on the State Report Card for a variety of things including Academic Distress Commissions for lack of testing data.

The bill includes an emergency clause, and is the right thing to do for Ohio schools and students. Since last year, we have heard from parents and teachers with concerns about the end of year testing and cancelling testing this year is something that appears to have broad, bi-partisan support in the Statehouse.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will now turn the mic over to my joint sponsor. Afterwards, I'll be happy to answer any questions there may be.