



Jeffrey Crossman
15th District

Lisa A. Sobecki
45th District

Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High St, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria
Ohio Department of Education
25 S. Front St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

President Laura Kohler
Ohio Board of Education
25 S. Front St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

February 4, 2021

Dear Governor DeWine, Superintendent DeMaria, and President Kohler,

Last year, we urged your respective offices to take appropriate action to cancel state mandated testing and the issuance of a state report card for the 2019-20 academic year. On June 1, 2020, we filed HB 686 in an effort to cancel testing due to the ongoing pandemic and urged you again to take action.

Unfortunately, you chose not to support our subsequent effort and, despite the ongoing pandemic – during which you have urged everyone to take sufficient safety precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 – mandated testing has continued during this academic year. We have spoken with many constituents who have urged us again to do all that we can to end this practice during the pandemic and we have once again filed legislation to cancel all state mandated testing. Our legislation, HB 40, would also require ODE to seek the Federal waivers needed to cancel the remainder of the testing.

Notwithstanding the pending legislation, the Ohio Department of Education may and, we believe, *should* begin the process of seeking such waivers now. Other states have already taken this step, including New York and Michigan; we respectfully request ODE join this effort immediately,

While we appreciate your leadership during this difficult period we urge you and the ODE to take all necessary action to waive school testing for the remaining school year. This action should be taken immediately so no additional time is wasted preparing for tests and would allow

educators to focus on instructional time. On behalf of the educators and students of Ohio we thank you in advance for your prompt attentions to this issue.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jeffrey A. Crossman
House District 15



Rep. Lisa Sobecki
House District 45

cc: Lt. Gov. John Husted
State School Board Members