

Witness Signup List

House Education

03/05/2021 Upon Adjournment

Testimony - HB21-1161 Suspend Statewide Assessments For Select Grades

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony
	Carol	Brown	For	Self	Submitted text	<p>To whom it may concern, I am a parent to a 4th grader (and Kindergartener) who have had their lives and educations thoroughly disrupted over the past year due to COVID-19. My 4th grader spent 10 months at home and has only been in her classroom since January 11. And let me tell you, she is thriving in the classroom. She comes home full of joy because she is with her teacher and classmates in person. And even though it's not the same as things were, it's getting so much better. She loves learning and her teacher and school have done an incredible job supporting the kids this year. Is she behind in math? I guess that depends on what standards kids are being held to. Does it matter? Not at all, because her teacher knows where she is, as well as the other kids in the class and is working with them every single day to help them learn. More importantly, she is supporting their mental health.</p> <p>What my kids, and all kids, need is more face time with their teachers, learning, being inspired, being supported. They don't need anxiety invoking tests where results won't be known until well into the next school year. If a request for a complete waiver is off the table, then I implore you to support the measure to reduce CMAS testing as much as possible so our kids and teachers can get back to the important work of actually learning.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Carol Brown</p> <p>Denver Public School Parent</p>
	Johanna	Woodrow	For	Self	Submitted text	<p>Dear Members of the Education Committee,</p> <p>I am writing today in favor of HB21-1161 as a DPS parent at a school currently under the strain of 2 classes and 5 staff in quarantine. My 4th grader is remote this year and would need to come in person to participate, which like many remote students, will not do. During testing time he will be moved to asynchronous learning (busy work) and it is unclear how the rest of his day will be structured as students participating will need to have their chromebooks digitally cleaned, hence making them unavailable for lessons for the rest of the day. By reducing the duration of testing time from 2 weeks to 1, he will return to live lessons sooner, which is the best way to use the remaining time of the school year. This also reduces the strain on staff and will help if there are additional quarantines. I urge you to please vote yes on this bill.</p>

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Stephen Fusco Neutral A+ Colorado Submitted text

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Stephen Fusco and I am here in my role as the Vice President of Policy and Research for A+ Colorado in support of HB-1161.

While there have been significant federal, state, and local resources devoted to the current educational crisis, there is a lack of meaningful data available to ensure these scarce resources are channeled to sound educational programming. If policy makers do not gather similar data across the State of Colorado to (a) determine the strengths and needs among Colorado's most targeted and oppressed communities; and (b) measure the efficacy of current programs, there is no guarantee current or future programming will achieve the desired outcomes.

Given our focus on research-backed educational practices and data transparency, we are steadfast in our position that the State of Colorado must administer a uniform summative assessment. As acting assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education noted, "The Department of Education is committed to supporting all states in assessing student learning during the pandemic to help target resources and support to the students with the greatest needs." In short, a statewide assessment can help eliminate the guesswork associated with educational programming now and into the future.

We also want to acknowledge that the compromise reached in the most recent version of the bill strikes an important and appropriate balance between the need for data and increased flexibility. Importantly, the current version of the bill is consistent with the Biden administration's guidance to shorten state assessments to make testing more feasible and ensure that significant accommodations are included in all state-wide testing efforts.

We believe HB 1161 meets the requirements of the federal waiver and fully support this bill. The compromises reached in this bill follow the COVID stakeholder group recommendations and we want to thank the sponsors for their hard work to reach this compromise. We know the voices are loud on both sides of the issue and recognize your tireless commitment to improve educational outcomes for students. We support HB 1161 and urge the committee members to vote yes. Thank you.

	Lori	Goldstein	For	Self	Uploaded file
	Patricia	Ramsey	For	Self	Uploaded file
Ms.	Julie	Fishman	For	Self	Uploaded file
	JohnPaul	Sampson	For	Self	Uploaded file
	Cara	Luchies-Schroeder	For	Self	Uploaded file