

January 30, 2019

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I have been an educator for 10 years and I am currently working in the Springfield School District. I have witnessed the detrimental effects of standardized testing on middle school and high school students. A few years ago, Bridget, a student who was homeless and had been dealing with her family's struggles with addiction, broke down in tears while taking the Math portion of Smarter Balanced.

If these tests are causing such a negative effect on our young adults, I cannot even begin to imagine how standardized tests are impacting our most vulnerable youth in elementary school. We are causing students undue stress by having them miss valuable instruction time on social skills with sitting down to take a standardized test. Our students' mental health is at stake. Please be sure to vote in support of HB 2318.

Sincerely,

Laura Farrelly