

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

As a retired 38-year veteran teacher and a staunch advocate for our state's students, families and communities, I must express to you the emergent need of this bill to ensure equity and responsible stewardship in our schools. Having administered the Smarter Balanced Assessment to my fourth grade students, I have witnessed first hand its effects on their lives/mental health, the severe misuse of instructional time but also the extreme narrowing of the curriculum to tested subjects. When SBAC was rolled out, the expected passing rate was predicted to be 40% and that in itself was more than problematic. The passage of HB 2655 enabled parents to be informed about the assessment and also that they had the right to choose whether or not they wanted their children to participate. This has been a very important piece of legislation for students and families, most especially students of color, poverty and other challenges. The inequities experienced by many students are exacerbated by administration of the current state assessment. I strongly support SB 602 and would appreciate your strong consideration of this important bill and its benefit to students, families and teachers.

Thank you,

Colleen Hunter

Springfield Public School Retiree, 2017

Member of Community Alliance for Public Schools