

Submitter: David Crandall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I wholeheartedly support SB 1583's intent to reduce the burden of annual summative assessments. As an educationist who has spent fifty years helping schools better serve their students, especially those most in need, I have seen no evidence that the aspirations of the Common Core State Standards or its accompanying statewide summative assessments like SBAC have been realized. To the contrary, after more than twenty years, the achievement gap persists, NAEP scores decline and no meaningful reallocation of resources toward priority populations has occurred. What has occurred is that millions of dollars of public money has been spent on an ever increasing number of federal, state and local standardized tests and thousands of hours of meaningful instruction by capable teachers has been redirected to test prep, test taking and test administration. The results are rarely timely, do not help teachers improve instruction, and yield opaque information for parents. SBAC has erected an oppressive umbrella of false accountability that provides cover for an escalating number of district imposed tests with similar shortcomings. The burden on students is obvious, its negative impact on many of them palpable, and its increasing cost irresponsible. Most telling, according to distinguished professor David Berliner and his colleagues in a soon to be presented article, recent research in two states says rather unequivocally that the results of standardized tests at any school, over the next few years, will be almost exactly the same as they are this year. The correlation of scores over a three year period in their study was 0.9%. That means that testing every year vs every three yields only 10% new information. Oregon reportedly spends well north of \$15million a year on SBAC. Imagine if two thirds of that money was spent on something that improved teacher pay and skills, reduced class size, and supported student mental health. SB 1583 is a modest pushback against the behemoth of standardized testing that SBAC exemplifies. ODE has the technical skill to figure out how to reduce the burden and meet federal requirements; SB 1583 tells them that they must. Please support this important bill.