

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



Testimony in Support of HB 4124

February 3, 2022

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

As a teacher, parent and legislator, I write to offer support of HB 4124 and the -1 amendment. The primary objective of the bill is to understand K12 testing across the state by asking questions like: How much testing is done? For what purpose? And can we develop a more effective testing strategy? While assessments can give us valuable information, we need to do our own assessment of the emphasis that our current system has on test scores, and ensure balance it with well rounded learning opportunities.

Our students are emotionally exhausted from the pandemic learning years. They are increasingly stressed and anxious. At a time like this we must truly analyze if our state practices are fulfilling an essential purpose, or taking away time and resources from classroom instruction. Research shows that standardized test scores can have a **problematic correlation with family income, gender and race and ethnicity** and are not a reliable indicator of student potential. Black, Latinx, Native, and Asian student groups experience bias from standardized tests administered from early childhood through college and there is a growing movement away from spending valuable instructional time on standardized testing.

HB 4124 and the -1 amendment will allow policymakers to examine and understand testing strategies from districts across the state and will allow opportunities to create authentic and supportive ways to evaluate performance. We need to reinforce lifelong learners and move toward a more balanced system.

I urge your support by voting "yes" on HB 4124 and move the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Courtney Neron