



Michigan Association of
Secondary School Principals



March 2, 2021

State Representative Pamela Hornberger
House Education Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairperson Hornberger:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to voice our support for HB 4037 and HB 4038 and to thank you and Rep. Reilly for sponsoring this legislation and bringing the bills up quickly for a hearing.

Best practice in assessment requires striking a balance between the cost of administering a test in terms of time and money and getting quality information that serves your needs. In Michigan, we use a combination of different state and local assessments to try and paint a picture of individual student learning and growth, educator effectiveness, and building and district success among other things.

The challenge with WorkKeys is that despite its \$4 million annual cost, three hour examination window, and the loss of a full day of student instructional time, it does not contribute to any of those purposes. Educators tell us they do not find the information helpful. It is not, and should not be used in state accountability systems, and by all accounts it is used only sporadically by some businesses.

You and your colleagues have undoubtedly heard from educators and parents in your community about the amount of time that students spend on high stakes assessments and the stress it causes. Michigan's 11th graders are required to participate in a minimum of nine hours of testing every spring. For students with special needs who require extended testing time, that figure can increase to 13.5 hours, 18 hours, or more. By eliminating the requirement that students take WorkKeys, the Michigan Legislature would reduce testing time for Michigan's juniors by one third.

We acknowledge that the WorkKeys assessment may have value for some schools or programs in some communities in our state. Fortunately, HB 4037 and HB 4038 would leave the choice open for local districts to offer WorkKeys if some or all of their students would benefit from taking it. But for those regions or students for whom the test is simply one more state mandate, these bills would provide much needed relief.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this legislation and we urge you and the members of the House Education Committee to pass them.

Sincerely,

Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators
Michigan Association of School Boards
Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
West Michigan Talent Triangle