

February 8, 2022

Madame Chair, and Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Deanna Green. As a former High School Counselor and educator for 20 years, I am here to advocate for the passage of HB 4810 and 4811, and I'm grateful for the chance to speak with you today.

Michigan law requires all Michigan public high schools to put the MME scores, including the SAT portion of the test, on high school transcripts. Many colleges and universities no longer require the SAT scores as part of a student application and yet, because of state law, our Michigan public high schools are mandated to provide the score, regardless of how well the student performed, when they submit the student's transcript as part of their college applications.

HB4810 and 4811 significantly expand student and parent choice in colleges because they allow students and parents the choice of submitting a test score or not. By doing so, students can apply to test optional colleges and truly have their application be "test optional", giving them the best possible opportunity for admission. Under current state law, the score is provided to all schools and therefore, does not allow our Michigan students to truly apply "test-optional" to test-optional schools, putting them at a disadvantage.

This also means out-of-state students enjoy an advantage applying to many Michigan colleges by being allowed to have score choice. Unfortunately, regardless of how a Michigan public high school student performs on the MME SAT portion, the score is being submitted, while an out-of-state student has a choice to submit their scores or not. Michigan families are funding these schools with their taxes but out-of-state students have a significant advantage by having the opportunity of choosing to submit their test scores or not as part of their application. This simply is not advantageous to our Michigan public high school students and this imbalance needs to be addressed.

With passage of HB4810 and 4811, our Michigan students will no longer be required to take the writing portion of the SAT/MME, a test College Board no longer offers on national test dates, but is still part of the MME. This is another score our students are required to put on the transcript that could put them at a disadvantage with other students, since other students don't have to take the Writing exam, let alone submit the scores.

Along with my 20 years as a former educator/counselor, my perspective as a mother has also provided insight into the need to change state law. As my 18 year old daughter began the application process a few years back, the trend for test-optional colleges was growing. It was during this time the issue of a mandated test score on the transcript became a significant issue as my daughter was applying to test optional schools with the State of Michigan mandating the MME test score be on her transcript. Next year, if the law does not change, my 16 year old son will also be forced to provide

whatever score he receives on his Spring MME. He could do poorly, he could do well, but the bottom line is no matter what, his score will be on the transcript by law, creating an unfair playing field with out-of-state students who have a CHOICE to provide a score they desire when applying for admissions.

It is for these reasons I advocate for All Michigan public high school students to have the current law amended so our Michigan public high school students are not placed at a disadvantage in the college admissions process.

Respectfully,

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