

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.27

Reps. Stone, Shannon, Brenda Carter, Coleman, Cynthia Johnson, Clemente, Sneller, Camilleri, Bolden, Sowerby, Hertel, Warren, Chirkun, Wittenberg, Hood, Kuppa, Anthony and Brixie offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the United States Department
2 of Education to grant waivers for Michigan state assessment
3 requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

4 Whereas, State and federal laws require schools to assess
5 student learning every year in specific grade levels and subjects.
6 Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states must
7 administer annual statewide assessments. If states do not meet
8 certain requirements, the U.S. Department of Education may withhold
9 federal funding; and

10 Whereas, Michigan meets this federal requirement in part by



1 requiring schools to administer standardized tests. The Michigan
2 Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) is given to students
3 online in grades 3-7 to measure their knowledge of state standards
4 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The Michigan
5 Department of Education also administers the PSAT 8/9 which
6 replaced the M-STEP ELA and mathematics assessment for grade 8. The
7 M-STEP and the PSAT 8/9 aim to provide valuable information to
8 parents and teachers on student academic performance that help
9 schools and districts evaluate curriculum and programming
10 effectiveness; and

11 Whereas, While the PSAT 8/9 is paper-based and the M-STEP is
12 administered online, students normally take both assessments under
13 the supervision of an administrator who can ensure test security.
14 Maintaining uniform procedures for test administration helps ensure
15 that results are accurate and meaningful and that no student has an
16 unfair advantage in their assessment performance; and

17 Whereas, In light of the uncertainty of in-person school
18 attendance for the upcoming school year due to the COVID-19
19 Pandemic, it will be difficult to prepare uniform procedures for
20 administration of state assessments. This may result in decreased
21 test security and overall confusion regarding the process, which
22 may detract from the reliability of the assessment results; and

23 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Education announced that they
24 will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its
25 students due to the ongoing national emergency brought on by the
26 COVID-19 Pandemic for the current 2019-2020 school year. The
27 decision was made in order to allow students to focus on learning
28 and staying healthy while allowing teachers time to adapt to remote
29 learning; and

1 Whereas, School districts will continue to face enormous
2 burdens and challenges as they scramble to prepare for education
3 under new and uncertain circumstances in the upcoming school year.
4 It is essential that we allow them flexibility to ease some of
5 those burdens. While state assessments provide valuable
6 information, we should allow schools to focus their limited
7 resources and energy on other initiatives; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
9 concurring), That we urge the United States Department of Education
10 to grant waivers for Michigan state assessment requirements under
11 the Every Student Succeeds Act for the 2020-2021 school year; and
12 be it further

13 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
14 United States Secretary of Education