

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.3

Reps. Stone, Rogers, Steenland, Brixie, Kuppa, Sowerby, Hood, Brenda Carter, Hertel, Ellison, O'Neal, Steckloff, Thanedar, Breen, Scott, Neeley, Aiyash, Cambensy, Garza, Haadsma, Tyrone Carter, Witwer, Weiss, Clemente, Cynthia Johnson, Puri, Brabec, Sneller, Koleszar, Bolden, Anthony, Rabhi, Camilleri, Young, Cavanagh, LaGrand, Jones and Manoogian 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

1 federal funding; and

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

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

19 Whereas, In light of the uncertainty of in-person school
20 attendance for the rest of the 2020-21 school year due to the
21 COVID-19 Pandemic, it will be difficult to prepare uniform
22 procedures for administration of state assessments. This may
23 result in decreased test security and overall confusion regarding
24 the process, which may detract from the reliability of the
25 assessment results; and

26 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Education announced that they
27 will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its
28 students due to the ongoing national emergency brought on by the
29 COVID-19 Pandemic for the current 2019-2020 school year. The

1 decision was made in order to allow students to focus on learning
2 and staying healthy while allowing teachers time to adapt to remote
3 learning; and

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

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

16 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
17 United States Secretary of Education.