

LBDC(P) 05-05-15

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge the New York State Congressional delegation to support efforts to reduce federally mandated standardized tests by supporting H.R. 452, the "Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act"; and

WHEREAS, The "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" which amended the Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965 placed an increased emphasis on standardized tests, causing students to be tested in English & Language Arts and Mathematics annually in grades 3-8; and

WHEREAS, This testing mandate has failed to increase student achievement, rather causing valuable instruction time to be lost to test preparation; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in testing time and frequency will allow for more classroom time to be focused on one-on-one instruction and the return of a pupil centered curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Grade span testing will provide adequate opportunity to assess student progress while allowing for genuine and appropriate assessments that can be used to tailor instruction and focus on those students most in need; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 452, the "Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act" strikes an appropriate balance between standardized testing and classroom instruction time by returning to grade span testing; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate and House of Representatives have been making efforts towards reauthorizing the "Elementary and Secondary Schools Act of 1965" with an emphasis on increased flexibility for the States; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Chris Gibson (R-NY) has introduced H.R. 452, known as the "Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act"; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 452 strikes an appropriate balance between assessing student progress and allowing for increased classroom time to be spent on learning and student instruction; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in federally mandated testing is an essential part of increasing flexibility to the States to administer their education systems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the New York State Congressional delegation to support and enact legislation that would reduce standardized testing and thus increase the number of classroom hours spent on one-on-one instruction and enable States like New York to administer appropriate assessments to their students in each grade span level; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the New York State Congressional delegation.

RESOLEG

SHORT TITLE: Urging New York State Congressional delegation to support efforts to reduce the annual testing mandate imposed by No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

BLURB: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001