

**December 5, 2017**

The Honorable Tim Kelly  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Representative Kelly:

On behalf of ACT, Inc., I am writing respectfully to oppose HB 4501 (Reilly, R-46), which would eliminate statewide administration of ACT WorkKeys, a program that assesses students' ability to apply reading and mathematics skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the results in making employment decisions. Unlike other assessments, ACT WorkKeys measures not just reading and writing competency but a range of hard and soft skills relevant to any occupation, at any level.

ACT WorkKeys is a system of assessments, curriculum, and job profiles that build and measure essential workplace skills that can affect job performance and increase opportunities for career changes and advancement. The WorkKeys suite helps a variety of stakeholders, including:

- Individuals—from career seekers to longtime employees—looking to validate their skills and advance their career goals
- Educators from high school through college wanting to ensure their students are ready for career success
- Employers needing to find, hire, and develop high-quality talent
- Workforce and economic developers preparing their workforce to attract and maintain business and industry
- Industry associations and advocacy organizations developing valuable skills-credentialing systems for a more productive, reliable, and profitable workforce

In 2016, 107,612 Michiganders tested with ACT WorkKeys, and 94,476 of them received scores sufficient to earn them an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) demonstrating their ability to enter a variety of jobs. Over 170 Michigan employers support ACT WorkKeys and the NCRC as a means toward continued improvement of economic development in their communities.

Further, Kent County has been certified as an ACT Work Ready Community—part of a community-based system of workforce and economic development that sets and guides counties through the process of meeting established goals toward work readiness. These goals are grounded in meaningful, consistent workforce skills data, updated monthly and drilled down to the county level across the current, emerging, and transitioning workforces.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend the upcoming hearing on HB 4105. However, I would welcome the earliest opportunity to have further conversations with you about the value that ACT WorkKeys, the NCRC, and ACT Work Ready Communities provide to the residents and employers in Michigan. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at 217.725.2188 or Katherine.Lawrence@ACT.org if you would like additional information. I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

**Katy M. Lawrence**  
**Director**  
**U.S. Government Relations**

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