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To: Chairman Chatfield
Members of the House Michigan Competitiveness Committee

From: Dr. Michael Yocum, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Date: February 15, 2017

Re: **Testimony on HB 4192**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 4192 for Oakland Schools. Oakland Schools stands in strong opposition to this bill. Passage of HB 4192 will create serious disruptions for local school districts in their progress toward meeting the rigorous standards Michigan has put in place. In addition, passage of the bill will be excessively costly as districts, once again, begin the process of implementing a whole new set of standards and preparing for new tests.

A number of actions need to be taken by local school districts to implement new academic standards. The teaching staff must receive sufficient professional development in order to understand the standards and to teach the standards well. This process typically takes multiple days over a number of years. Districts continue to provide these professional development experiences for their teachers on the Michigan Career and College Readiness Standards despite the fact that these standards have been in place for a number of years. This is because each year the assessment data on the standards helps districts refine the curriculum and instructional approach they take to produce higher student achievement. If you look at assessment data, over time, from the time a set of standards is introduced you will see an upward trajectory as students continually become more proficient. This is true from the time Michigan first introduced standards. The unfortunate reality for Michigan schools is they have experienced this far too many times as the standards and state assessments have changed often.

Local districts must also go through the laborious and expensive process of constructing new curriculum when new standards are introduced. The standards do not represent the program of study a student needs to follow to meet the standards. Since Michigan is a local control state, that effort to develop the program of study is undertaken by the local district. Again, local districts have been buffeted by the multiple changes in standards over the years as they have responded, in order to provide high quality curriculum to their students.

One of the most expensive actions a local district must take when introducing new curriculum based on new standards is the purchase of new instructional materials. This is a necessary step to align the instructional program to the curriculum and the state assessments. If teachers are left with materials that are not aligned with standards they face a significant challenge in delivering instruction that will help meet the standards. The proposed standards in HB 4192 will create large discrepancies between what is in place now and what will have to be purchased to align with the new standards.

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Finally, state assessment is not the only way local districts track student progress against the standards. In every district I am aware of they have developed their own internal assessment systems in order for teachers to track student assessment on a regular basis. This is an important component of quality control as districts can use this information to focus on the progress of individual students, review instructional practices, and determine the effectiveness of their curriculum. With the change in standards being proposed, all of the work districts have done with their assessment systems will be out the window and they will be once again start from scratch.

Using a 2012 Fordham Institute by Murphy and Elliott that assessed the costs for a local district introducing the common core standards we can estimate the costs of introducing new standards for the state. In the study they looked at only English language arts and mathematics. HB 4192 calls for new standards in those two subject areas plus social studies and science. If we assume 1,540,005 PreK-12 students in Michigan, which is the number MDE uses in its data for 2016-2017 the end cost is \$599,400,000 which equates to \$389 per student - or in other words, \$778,439 for a local district with 2,000 students. If we use the low end of the cost spectrum Murphy and Elliott calculated, the total cost for the state would be \$79,000,000 or \$110 per student which is \$220,778 for a district with 2,000 students. It should be noted that the study was criticized by those who oppose the common core, not for its methodology, but for the low end cost being unrealistically low.

I urge the Committee to reject HB 4192 and allow local districts some stability in the state standards and assessments for which they are expected to prepare students. And, by doing so avoid the significant costs the local districts will bear as a result of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.