

## October 2020 Legislative Report

Colleagues, if you're still showing up on the daily & killing it to put out the best educational product for Elyria's kids, as I suspect you are, cheers to you! If you still find yourself wildly overwhelmed, as if you're doing the work of several people while assuming that every sneeze is sinister, I'm with you.

Now, if all of that is true *and* you're reading this Legislative Report, you just may be a saint, or have some serious psychological problems. Either way, I'm cool with it.

**Senate Bill 358:** As mentioned in the last report, SB 358 would go a long way to eliminating some needless stressors from our academic year. The bill seeks to cancel standardized testing, provide flexibility with the graduation requirement & 3rd grade guarantee, as well as evaluations & state report cards.

Since the last report, the bill has had a few more committee meetings. This is promising. What is not is that Senate Education Committee Chair, Peggy Lehner, seems unwilling to push DeVos for a waiver to eliminate testing. In a hearing she stated that we can just give the tests without high stakes & tell the kids not to worry about them. Any teacher in a tested subject knows damn well that this is not how it works, but Senator Lehner has proven herself more likely to listen to lobbyists than teachers.

That said, contacting Senator Lehner and the entire Senate Education Committee would go a long way to pushing the issue. Type up your thoughts on why the high stakes *and* the assessments should be eliminated, and drop them emails with [this link](#).

If you'd just like to shout at Senator Lehner, email her [here](#), call her office at (614)466-4538, or tag her on Twitter [@peggylehner](#). No, I don't know where she lives. That would be creepy.

**VOTE:** Sweet Fancy Moses, **vote**, and by all means **vote** for candidates who support public education. This [OEA link](#) asks you for your address, then directs you to candidates who are "Champions of Public Education."

**Elyria's House Seat, District 55**, is in play this election, and OEA has endorsed North Ridgeville incumbent Representative Gayle Manning. As you are likely aware, Manning is a former teacher currently on the House Education Committee who recently introduced legislation to eliminate all state testing in Ohio that is not federally mandated. She has long been an advocate for our students in Columbus.

Below is an image of candidates endorsed by the Ohio Badass Teacher's Association, & while their name may be unseemly (I certainly don't condone the use of that kind of language), the group is made up of public school teachers, & public school advocates statewide.



# 2020 Endorsements

## **Court of Appeals**

Judge Terri Jamison, District 10

## **State Board of Education**

Dr. Christina Collins, District 5  
Michelle Newman, District 9  
Mary Binegar, District 10  
Meryl Johnson, District 11

## **Ohio House**

Sara Bitter, District 27  
Jessica Miranda, District 28  
Gayle Manning, District 55  
Joe Miller, District 56  
Erin Rosiello, District 62  
Dr. Rachael Morocco, District 67  
Donna Beheydt, District 69  
Kim McCarthy, District 73  
Melissa Wilde, District 77  
Tiffanie Roberts, District 86  
Beth Workman, District 92

## **Ohio Senate**

Kathy Wyenandt, District 4  
Mark Fogel, District 6  
Crystal Lett, District 16

## **US Congress**

Shannon Freshour, District 4  
Joel Newby, District 15  
Aaron Godfrey, District 16

**Vote for the change we need.**