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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

Referred to Committee: House 4

Authors: Lindsey McLellan, Sydney Speed, Sara Langford, Ivy Stites	Action on the Bill	
School: Daviess Co. MS	House	Senate
	□ Passed	Passed
City: Owensboro	Defeated	Defeated

An act to slowly abolish standardized testing in Kentucky.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: Currently Kentucky public schools are required to take standardized tests near the end of each school year. The purpose of this bill is to slowly decrease the amount of testing material that students are forced to take until the tests are entirely abolished.

Section 2: Starting in the 2015–2016 school year, Kentucky will begin to phase out KPREP standardized testing. Students will take smaller tests with smaller amounts of time that gradually decrease each year over a span of four years until the tests are completely abolished the fifth year. The extended response questions will be eliminated in the first year.

Section 3: To replace the KPREP test, portfolios (a collection of student work from every class including presentations, essays, projects, etc.) will be collected throughout the school year. This will more accurately show what a student actually knows, instead of how well they can take a test. To keep the grading of the portfolios fair, the state board of education will create a committee to score the portfolios. This will be similar to the group of people that scored the extended response questions on the KPREP. This would be beneficial for Kentucky by creating more jobs in a tough economy and giving teachers more time to teach material and give students a better understanding of the content for future grades and future college tests such as the ACT and SAT.

Section 4: Kentucky spends approximately \$15,000,000 a year on standardized testing, which greatly benefits testing companies, such as Pearson. If this is to take effect, Kentucky will save money which can be used to build better schools, buy better school equipment, and increase teacher salaries.

Section 5: Abolishing standardized testing is beneficial to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in many different ways. The following are prime examples of these benefits: Creating more jobs, students will learn beneficial knowledge on important skills needed later in life, decrease stress and anxiety on students and instructors, increase amount of time to learn and access important and desired learning material, increase employee pay rates in school systems in Kentucky, and increase value and the amount of physical material provided for students who cannot afford it, and to provide for the school.

Section 6: In conclusion, it is beyond obvious that the benefits of eliminating Kentucky standardized testing far outweighs the deficits. This act is very much needed to better the state of Kentucky and all of those who are participants in each of Kentucky's school systems.