

Written Testimony.

Education Committee Public Hearing.

March 17, 2015.

Regarding Bill # 1100: An Act Concerning the Elimination of the Reporting and Collection of Certain Student and Teacher Data.

I just want to say that the way this bill is worded is confusing. But, if you mean that this act eliminates the reporting and collecting of private, personal and confidential information on students and teachers, I am strongly in favor of protecting both students and teachers from intrusion by government agencies for purposes of tracking certain demographics. It is a serious breach of constitutionally-protected privacy rights to have private student information, such as grades, test scores, truancy, disciplinary actions, special education identifying information, made available in a statewide longitudinal database, like P20 WIN, as such data should only be maintained and accessed within local school districts to inform student instruction.

The same should hold true for the privacy of teacher personal and confidential information. It is the responsibility of each local school district that hires a teacher and other educational professionals to ensure that they meet all certification requirements, demonstrate professional growth, and adhere to professional contractual obligations agreed to. To collect and store data on teacher effectiveness ratings based on questionably reliable or valid student test results is unsound, neither evidence-based nor relevant professional practice, and downright punitive. Similar, to the collection of student data, the record of teacher evaluations should be collected and maintained at the local school district level and not placed at risk in a private vendor's database.

I sincerely hope that the intent of this bill is to protect student and teacher privacy. It is important to recognize that continued intrusion on personal privacy is an affront to all Americans and needs to be vigilantly protected, especially in this era of disingenuous political accountability overreach.

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