

HB 7253: An Act Concerning Minor Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes, **Specific to Section 10-14n**

Dear Chairmen Boucher, Fleishmann, Slossberg, Ranking Member Lavielle, and Members of the Education Committee,

In regard to HB 7253, I provide this testimony and ask that you take time to review:

- 1) Section 1. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):
- 2) (a) As used in this section, "**mastery examination**" means (1) for students enrolled in grades three to eight, inclusive, an examination or examinations, approved by the State Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing or mathematics, (2) for students enrolled in grades five, eight and ten, an examination, approved by the State Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in science, and (3) for students enrolled in grade eleven, a nationally recognized college readiness assessment, approved by the State Board of Education, that measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing and mathematics. (**Section 10-14n, CT General Statutes**)

The CT State Department of Education received a request on March 11, 2016 for information on the Validity and Reliability of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (FOIA, 2016-0224). Through the FOIA Commission meeting, the state of CT's Assistant Attorney General Urban provided, "you cannot prove the existence of a negative". The State Department of Education lacks information on the validation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. (CT Mirror, 2017). Without statistical evidence and psychometric calculators conducted on the Smarter Balanced Assessments, it being described as a 'Mastery Test' cannot be stated. A Mastery Test ... "A domain-referenced. test that is used to decide whether individuals have attained some particular level of performance is called. a mastery test. It is assumed that the domain consists of a large number of discrete tasks or items and that independent. random samples can be drawn from the domain" (Kane & Wilson).

I would request that a moratorium be placed on the providing of Smarter Balanced Assessments in the state of CT at this time. Other states are reviewing the validation of the test (CA and MO). In addition, the state of CT has paid approximately \$21 million dollars for 3 years of this test, this payment does not appear to have gone before the Finance Committee/Appropriations Committee.

The actual Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is also an unconstitutional interstate compact. In order for it to be a valid interstate compact it would need to go before Congress. (Article I, Section 10, US Constitution).

Sincerely,
Anne Manusky
Easton, CT

Sources

- Kane, M.& Wilson, J. (1984). Errors of Measurement and Standard Setting in Mastery Testing. *Applied Psychological Measurement*, Vol 8(1), 107-115.
- Manusky, A. CTMirror. <http://ctviewpoints.org/2017/01/10/two-critical-education-issues-for-the-connecticut-legislature/>
- Compact Clause, *US Constitution*, Article I, Section 10. <http://constitutionus.com/>