**Lehner Announces Formation and Members of Senate Advisory Committee on Testing**

COLUMBUS— State Senator and Senate Education Chair [Peggy Lehner](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/lehner) (R–Kettering) today announced the creation of a Senate Advisory Committee on Testing. The committee will be made up of various educational experts from across the state and will make recommendations to the Senate on state required assessments.

"We hear the anxiety and confusion the new state tests have created for students, their families and teachers," Lehner said. "For this reason, we have assembled a group of top teachers, school leaders, curriculum specialists and other experts to help inform the Senate as to what policies and tests add the most value to our children's education. I look forward to their insight and recommendations."

The committee will be evaluating the administration of the new tests given to students in the 2014-2015 school year and make recommendations to the Senate on how to improve state testing. Committee members were announced today and include the following:

**Teachers:**
Dar Borradaile, Miami Valley Career and Technical Center
Melissa Cropper, Georgetown Exempted Village Schools
Amy Holbrook, Mad River Local Schools
Kimberly Jones, Columbus City Schools
Shari Obrenski, Cleveland City Schools
Billie Sarich, Grandview Heights City Schools
Kay Wait, Toledo City Schools

**Superintendents:**
Adrian Allison, Canton City Schools
Jan Broughton, Fairfield Union Local Schools
April Domine, New Albany Plain Local Schools
John Marschhausen, Hilliard City Schools

Keith Millard, Hamilton City Schools
Paul Imhoff, Upper Arlington City Schools

**Curriculum and Testing Specialists:**

**Cheryl Irish, Miami University**
Machelle Kline, Columbus City Schools
Jim Mahoney, Battelle for Kids
Char Shryock, Bay Village Schools
Julie Sellers, Cincinnati City Schools

**State Board of Education:**
Michael Collins
Todd Jones

**Other Educational Experts:**
Earl Oremus, Marburn Academy
Andy Boy, United Schools Network
Jessica Voltolini, Ohio Department of Education
Chris Knight, Catholic Schools, Diocese of Toledo
Parent representative, to be announced

**Senate Members:**
Senate Education Chair Senator Peggy Lehner
Senate Education Vice-Chair Senator Cliff Hite
Senate Education Ranking Member Tom Sawyer

The committee will convene later this month and is expected to issue their first report and recommendations later this spring.

The Senate also today unanimously passed H.B. 7 which protects students taking tests for the 2014-2015 school year from unforeseen consequences as schools transition to the new state assessment model. The legislation was amended by the Senate to ensure schools do not lose state aid for students not taking tests this school year and prohibits students from losing an EdChoice scholarship, Jon Peterson scholarship, Cleveland scholarship or Autism scholarship due to opting out.

# # #

*Senator Peggy Lehner represents Ohio’s 6th Senate District, which includes a portion of Montgomery County. To learn more, go to*[*www.OhioSenate.gov/Lehner*](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/Lehner)*. Download a high resolution photo of Senator Lehner for your use*[*here*](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senate/Assets/Headshots/Full/6.jpg)*.*

Release Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Contact: David Cordonnier at (614) 466-4538 or Lehner@OhioSenate.gov

**MAJORITY CAUCUS MEDIA CONTACT:**

Angelika McClelland

Phone: (614) 466-4822

Email: Angelika.McClelland@OhioSenate.gov

