



1 **Testimony in Opposition to SB2105 -**
2 Restriction of student surveys

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to SB2105. While the intent to
4 protect parental rights and student privacy is appreciated, this bill presents significant challenges
5 for schools, students, and compliance with existing educational requirements.

6 **Key Concerns:**

7 **1. Opt-In vs. Opt-Out: An Administrative Burden**

- 8 ○ The proposed **opt-in requirement** creates significant logistical challenges.
9 Schools already provide an opt-out option, offering parents flexibility while
10 ensuring robust participation.
- 11 ○ An opt-in system would lower response rates, resulting in incomplete data and
12 additional administrative burdens and staffing challenges that divert resources
13 from student-focused initiatives. Imagine dealing with an opt-in process in our
14 larger districts.

15 **2. Impact on Required Surveys (ESSA and Accreditation)**

- 16 ○ Schools must conduct third-party surveys, such as **Cognia** assessments, to comply
17 with **federal mandates like ESSA** and maintain accreditation.
- 18 ○ Limiting surveys to those administered by the Department of Public Instruction
19 (DPI) could jeopardize compliance, potentially risking funding and hindering
20 school improvement efforts.

21 **3. Hindrance to School Improvement Efforts**

- 22 ○ Surveys provide critical insights into mental health, school climate, and
23 instructional effectiveness, guiding decisions that directly impact student success.
- 24 ○ Restricting survey options could delay or prevent schools from identifying and
25 addressing pressing student needs.

26 **4. Loss of Local Control**

- 27 ○ The bill undermines local decision-making by restricting districts' ability to
28 partner with trusted third-party organizations for data collection tailored to their
29 unique needs.

30 The current **opt-out process** already balances parental choice with schools' ability to gather
31 essential data. Adding an opt-in requirement would create unnecessary barriers to compliance
32 and improvement efforts.

33 I respectfully urge the committee to **oppose this bill** and maintain the flexibility schools need to
34 support their students effectively.

35 Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.

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