**HB 80 "An Act repealing the requirement for secondary students to take college and career**

**readiness assessments."**

Testimony in favor of HB 80 sponsored by Representative Gattis and co-sponsored by Representative Clover.

I am in favor of repealing the requirement for graduation set forth last year for students to take a College and Career Ready known as CCR assessment. The current assessments are defined as the ACT, the SAT, or the WorkKeys exam.

Below is a screen shot of the Excel spreadsheet we are using in our district to track which test students are taking. These include all of our juniors as well as any senior who had not already taken one of these tests.

On Tuesday, March 3rd we will be administering the ACT to approximately 80 students at Soldotna High School. We are actually testing at our sports center as we did not have the physical space at our school for testing the ACT as per their requirements.

As high school counselors we are having to facilitate and in some cases proctor all of these tests.

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| **Work Keys Internet Version 11/10/14 - 02/13/15** | **Work keys P/P Accommodations 3/4/15 - 3/18/15** | **ACT  In School 3/3/2015** | **ACT Makeup 3/31/2015** | **ACT Saturday Voucher 2/7/2015** | **SAT  Saturday Voucher 1/24/2015** |

The state is providing a wonderful opportunity for students to take one of these tests; however in the current fiscal environment this does not seem to be a wise use of resources.

The Alaska Performance Scholarship requires a student score at a certain level one of these tests AND students must also have completed a rigorous curriculum as well as maintained a certain grade point average to qualify. These monies can be used up to six years after high school graduation and can also be used toward an advanced degree in the state.

Curriculum and grade point average have been proven to be higher predictors of success in college than SAT standardized tests. This article is but one of many examples:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/02/19/study-finds-little-difference-academic-success-students-who-do-and-dont-submit-sat>

In addition to the financial concerns associated with the current CCR requirement is the concern over the time it is taking away from school counselors in being able to help students with not only their college and career choices but with their social and emotional needs as well.

Several counselors in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District addressed our school board on February 2nd with these concerns. Our local paper The Peninsula Clarion covered this story in their article <http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2015-02-03-2>

Standardized testing was also mentioned in the opinion piece that week by the editor

“Time to stop leaving kids behind” <http://peninsulaclarion.com/opinion/2015-02-05/time-to-stop-leaving-kids-behind>

Attached is the Mindset Behaviors Survey 2014 from the American Schools Counseling Association outlining the K-12 College- and Career-Readiness (CCR) Standards used by school counselors in their programs.  It is ironic that a school counselor’s ability to deliver a program based on these CCR standards is directly impacted by the excessive amount of coordination for the CCR Assessments currently being spent by school counselors who also serve as a building’s test coordinator.  The sample statistics from a survey taken by KPBSD school counselors support this statement: As the survey results made clear, serving as a school’s testing coordinator directly impacts the level of direct and indirect services counselors are able to provide to their students.

Currently educators in our district and the state are focused on creating assessments to meet the evaluation standards related to student growth. The student learning objectives known as the student growth maps in our district will measure what students are learning in all grades and subject areas. I personally do not feel our students need to take an additional test that may or may not measure what they have learned.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in favor of HB 80.

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\* I am the school counselor at Ninilchik School and River City Academy and one of three counselors at Soldotna High School.