

To: The Senate Committee on Education

From: Paul Bodin, retired teacher, District 4J, Eugene, Oregon

I wish to register my strong support of Senate Bill 596.

As someone who has introduced and organized philosophical discussions in Eugene area public classrooms since 2014. I have seen firsthand the negative impacts of mandated and standardized testing regimens. This is particularly true of children in primary grades, where teachers are laying the groundwork for emotional health, socialization, tactile learning and a wide array of activities that promote engagement in young learners.

My extensive observations in classrooms throughout Eugene support strong evidence that teachers and their grade level teams are best positioned to create effective assessments of their students throughout the school year. Teacher-developed assessments come directly from the curriculum they use, the activities they lead, the levels of challenge they present, the needs for differentiation and accommodation they employ, and the data they find most important to record in young learners.

SB 596 will support the expertise of teachers who are faced with the challenges of differentiated classrooms of learners. This bill will reinforce the state legislature's support of teachers as they continue to find the best ways to assess children's progress in acquiring new skills, applying older skills, and developing attitudes towards learning and collaboration with peers.

I urge this committee to support SB 596.

Sincerely,  
Paul Bodin