

Testimony Regarding SB 214
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The term “early reading” is an oxymoron. Sure, you can parade a child prodigy in front of a committee and tell us that this is what every child should be able to do. But what happens to the rest of the children is that they begin to hate school by about the second month of kindergarten after being subjected to the drill and kill remediation type of education that inappropriate standards and high stakes accountability brings.

I took naps in kindergarten and I still went to college.

There are so many things wrong with this bill beginning with the name of the sponsor.

- It diverts money from schools to community-based organizations. I don't see these organizations in my school helping kids learn. What we need instead is licensed librarians, actual funding for full-day kinder that doesn't take away from the funding of other programs, and wrap around services provided at the school level.
- It requires the use of coaches when no funds have been provided. I don't need a coach to tell me how to better do more with less, instead restore the funding for the extra reading teachers that were cut during the recession and remain cut during the “jobless recovery”.
- It doesn't define a research-based program for reading. Show me any program that gets the results outlined in the CCSS standards for all sub-groups of students and I'll be the first to come on board.
- We are again making competitive grants on initiatives that can't be scaled up instead of providing services to all children.
- It doesn't fund after school programs that can be run by the school itself.
- It makes the receipt by the district of the fake funding for full day kindergarten contingent upon forced partnerships and unproven programs.

All in all, ideas that need to die their natural death before birth.