

To the members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2318 ("Too Young to Test), which would greatly decrease testing in our public schools. These young kids are bombarded year after year with tests that don't actually give information that can help those children to learn their own strengths and give direction for supporting those. Testing can cause unnecessary anxiety in children who do not "test well", which may have to do with things other than intelligence and ability, and those anxieties continue to get reinforced. Children learn in different ways and at different rates and need to have those ways respected. This testing also is prejudicial against children coming from other cultures or lower class status.

Time spent preparing for and administering tests, and dealing with the aftermath of the results, also lead teachers to "teach to the test" and take away from focus on more appropriate teaching tailored to children's actual ways of learning and their innate interests and abilities.

The "Too Young to Test" bill would prohibit standardized testing from pre-kindergarten through second grade. It would still allow teachers to test in ways they find appropriate to particular situations.

There are already other states, New York and New Jersey, who have adopted such rules. I urge Oregon to do the same.

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