

January 31, 2019

Pam Wooddell
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To Members of the House Education Committee

I am writing in favor of passage of HB 2318. I am a retired nurse with the good fortune of knowing quite a number of public school teachers through years of friendship and through community volunteer work. I have the utmost respect for teachers and consider them the hardest working, most dedicated, efficient, and caring people. I have heard with dismay their deep concerns about the decreased time available to adequately recognize and teach to the individual qualities and needs of students due to the increasing requirements of standardized testing.

It is unimaginable to me to think children as young as five and six and in their first years of public school might also have to face the stress and categorization involved with standardized testing. I was an exceedingly shy child, a "late bloomer", and I still recall the stress and anxiety I felt in my first years in public school. I loved my teachers even though it took years for me to adjust to what felt like huge classrooms with so many different and boisterous children. I know such testing would have only exacerbated my trauma. At this early stage of development children should be learning to adapt to being in a group and getting along with others along with discovering that school can be a fun, nurturing, stimulating and accepting place.

Please protect these early learners by passing HB 2318.

Sincerely yours,

Pam Wooddell