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Dear House Education Committee Members,

I am parent with three children enrolled in the Salem-Keizer School District. When we signed up our oldest daughter for kindergarten, we indicated that other languages were spoken in our home. The school district then required a standardized language test be performed shortly after her return from an extended stay outside the country. My kindergartner failed the standardized test and was denied entry, her first exposure to public school. We found a charter school outside the district and rearranged our schedule for her first few years.

Now in public high school, proficient in 3 languages, music and accelerated math, my daughter seems unaffected by the trauma created by that one standardized test and the bureaucracy existing to support the unnecessary collection of data. Waiting at a charter school until 3rd grade decreased opportunity to form foundational relationships with her current cohort.

Apart from the test's inaccurate and failed prediction that my own daughter was unready for kindergarten, I'm concerned about damaging psychological effects of testing all students, all the time. I imagine it slows brain development and stunts creativity, only teaching our students that competition defines success. More than just the hard costs of assessment and administration, the price for continued standardization may become our ability to grow culturally and adapt to our changing environment.

**Please vote yes on HB 2318** and end standardized tests for children too young to test.

Sincerely,  
Ross Swartzendruber