

2/1/19

My name is Nancy Jameson. I am an early education teacher.

My My testimony on HB-2318 is as follows:

As an early childhood educator I would like to convey my objection to the current testing being given to young children. The obvious and most clearly stated reason being the undue stress it places upon young children and their families.

There is another very important issue that is contributing to the disconnect between teachers, parents and the school districts. The assessments are a misuse of valuable instruction time. They come at a cost to meaningful learning experiences that teaches must cut to make time for testing.

Testing is an inappropriate way to rate students and schools . Test results consistently reinforce the notion that schools that serve low income students are “bad” schools, while students served by schools in higher income areas are “good” schools.

I firmly believe these tests are immoral based on years of solid evidence that they stigmatize children from households that are financially challenged. Testing of young children in this manner is not necessary. Nor is it a positive means by which a well rounded educational experience is gained.

Judging a young child by using a standardized test is not a positive learning experience. If we are to provide a meaningful learning experience for all children we need to address the individual by supporting positive teaching methods. Testing youngsters is far from innovative.

In my experience happy children in positive, non-testing classrooms produce a well rounded confident youngster. There is plenty of time for testing ahead for them. I see no benefit in the practice as it stands now.

Thank you,

Nancy Jamison, Teacher