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Re: HB 2318 House Education Committee

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2318. Hopefully this letter does not arrive too late to be considered.

For far too long we in this country have held the wrong ambitions for our children. Instead of teaching them love and compassion for one another and the planet we have taught them that nothing matters except monetary success. These teachings start with the pressure of constant testing.

Around the world people have come to realize that interaction between people and nature can teach far more than rote memorization, and computer-like responses to cold facts, especially for our youngest humans. It is time we in this country embrace the knowledge that learning and understanding about life, and how to live it fully, starts by teaching our children ways to live interactive lives with others and nature. Rather than only learning numbers and reading, and then being mercilessly tested on it all, teachers should be free to spend time with young students outside working cooperatively through exploring nature, games, and the incorporation of different languages and cultures.

Young children have the rest of their lives to stress over adult issues. Let them enjoy learning because if they enjoy learning from the start it will stay with them the rest of their lives.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline Danos