

RE: Bill number: SB 596 ("Too Young to Test")
in the Senate Education Committee
on Wednesday, April 7 at 3:15 pm

I am writing in support of Senator Lew Frederick's bill, SB 596, essentially the "Too Young to Test" bill from two years ago.

I taught kindergarten, first, second and third grades, was a school counselor and then retrained as a psychologist who continued to provide learning disability evaluations and therapy for children and families.

Teachers of young children continually assess and then fashion lessons for their students. In kindergarten, this might mean checking to see if students can name colors and letters or are able to use scissors. You don't need to pay testing companies large fees to determine what young children have mastered or need help with. The testing process itself is a waste of instructional time and is very stressful for children who are not yet comfortable with paper and pencils.

This bill will in no way prevent individual assessment for children who might have, for example, an intellectual disability, a learning disability or an autism spectrum diagnosis.

A teacher of mine once said, "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts". Standardized tests ignore traits such as socialization skills, artistic talents, a love of learning. Standardized tests generally measure parents' socioeconomic status more than any other factor.

Let teachers use their experience and professional judgment to determine how to assess and teach their students and please stop wasting time and money on testing very young students.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Roman, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist #100
1551 Oak Street Suite D
Eugene, OR 97405

541-284-4615
proman979@gmail.com