

April 4, 2021

Pam Wooddell
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To Members of the Senate Education Committee

I am writing in favor of passage of SB 596. I am a retired nurse with the good fortune of knowing quite a few public school teachers through years of friendship and community 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 of 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 about children as young as five and six and in their first years of public school spending so much time being testing and facing the associated stress and categorization. I was an exceedingly shy and sensitive child primarily interested in artistic activities. I still recall the stress and anxiety of my first few years in public school and how long it took to adjust to being in a classroom with so many other children. I know standardized 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 for all kinds of children.

Please protect these early learners by passing SB 596.

Sincerely,
Pam Wooddell