

Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing to ask you to please support SB 596, "Too Young to Test. "

I am a retired teacher with 32 years experience. For 20 years I was a Title I Reading Specialist, working with 1st – 5th grades struggling to learn how to read. Then for 12 years I had the opportunity to design and coordinate the English Language Development Program in my district, as a Teacher on Special Assignment. In this capacity, I worked with administrators, teachers, classified staff members, and families to provide an effective instructional program for students grades K-12.

I am also a parent and now a grandparent, with a granddaughter in second grade and one entering kindergarten in the fall. Before schools closed due to COVID, I helped in my granddaughter's classroom of 29 students two hours every week.

In all of these capacities, I know from experience that children learn at different rates. Teachers monitor their students' progress daily, adjusting instruction and providing extra assistance as needed. They do curriculum-based assessments of students' skills often. They share the information gained from monitoring and assessments with parents, so that home and school can work together to help the children learn.

Young children do not need to take standardized tests: these provide no useful data in comparison with the in-classroom, daily monitoring and curriculum-based assessments. Standardized tests also are extremely stressful for young children, and take valuable time away from classroom instruction.

For these reasons, please support SB 596, "Too Young to Test."

Thank you,

Nancy Bray
Retired Title I Reading Specialist and English Language Development District Coordinator