

April 7, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Carrie Ann Naumoff and I have recently retired from 31 years as a 5th grade teacher in the Eugene 4j School District. I am writing to urge you to pass SB 596 – "Too Young to Test." As stressful and damaging as the standardized tests are for 5th graders, they are far worse for kindergarten - 2nd grade students. The tests are developmentally inappropriate and cause enormous stress for our youngest charges. Over and over again I have witnessed young children literally sobbing as the teachers put them through new, difficult, and often irrelevant material. Instead of becoming excited to learn to read, lists of words and contrived passages are forced on them, and reading becomes an aversion, not a pleasure.

The testing provides no new information that is beneficial to teachers or parents. Teachers are trained to assess and work with students in age-appropriate ways that support and encourage students. I have witnessed my own kindergarten granddaughter completely fail a word list reading test and walk away in tears. Later that day, handed a new, early reading book, she read it slowly, carefully, and with near perfection. The tests do not give teachers information that supports students as the individuals that they are.

As a long time educator, and as a parent and grandparent, I urge you, please pass SB 596.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carrie Ann Naumoff