

Submitter: Judith Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB596

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Webber, Members of the Committee:

I am the parent of three adult children who were identified as gifted and participated in programs in their schools in CA. Two of my children live in OR and are parents of TAG identified students in public schools. I have been learning about gifted characteristics and needs and advocating for services for nearly 40 years. The brains of gifted students process information differently from neurotypical students. This difference requires that they have access to instruction that differs from what is usually provided for grade level students of their same age.

SB 596

This bill would improve transparency to assess equity in TAG identification and effectiveness of TAG services. Collecting and reporting data on student demographics is a necessary part of evaluating the strengths and shortcomings of district efforts to meet the needs of TAG students. Many districts have written excellent plans for TAG, what is lacking is evidence of implementation and effectiveness. Some districts are doing an outstanding job considering the lack of resources. They need to be recognized and their methods shared to improve education for TAG and high achieving students everywhere.

Respectfully,

Judith Smith