

Members of the House Education Committee,

Please support SB 1596, the “Play-Based Learning” bill. As a retired teacher with 30 years of experience, I view this bill as an important step in addressing the harmful imbalance that has happened in recent years in which a “joyless” model of early childhood education has taken hold.

The overemphasis on standardized testing and the resulting narrowing of the curriculum have had a devastating impact on our children. Many students now have little access to discovery-based or play-based learning as a way to learn. This has not always been the case.

The increased regimentation and routinization of learning, mostly in Reading and Math, risk making children dislike not only Reading and Math, but risk children disliking the adventure of learning for the duration of their schooling.

An essential component in addressing both the declining enrollment of students in public schools, as well as chronic absenteeism, is to provide an educational experience that is engaging and rewarding – not one in which children regularly dread the never-ending next round of testing.

This dehumanizing of learning is a tragic development. We have lost our way. We must return to the best practices of early childhood education that we have largely abandoned.

Please support SB 1596.

Respectfully,

Roscoe Caron
Eugene