

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my support of HB 2318 (“Too Young to Test”). As an elementary school teacher, I have had the opportunity to teach grades First through Fifth in Portland and Eugene. This year, I am teaching a First Grade class in Eugene, Oregon.

My main goal, as a teacher, is to instill a love of learning to my students, through engaging, hands on, inquiry-based learning. This involves creating lessons that generate excitement and critical thinking about the world around us. This type of education takes energy and time from both the teacher and the students.

Standardized testing is time consuming and takes away from actual learning in the classroom. It does not inform the teacher, as do formative assessments (i.e. math interviews, observations, product from the students).

Our youngest students, grades Pre-K through Second Grade, are where we should be putting our energies into teaching them how to read and write, and to form a strong foundation of math skills. It is also an extremely important time where we build their social and critical thinking skills, in addition with how to interact in a community and problem solve.

Standardized testing at this young age will gravely impact the time and focus needed to bring necessary life lessons to our youngest citizens. I implore you to please pass HB 2318 for our youngest and most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,  
Christine Hinrichs