

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

RE: Support of SB 606

Yes, yes, yes!

We need to join educators and state legislators around the country and take a close look at the role of state administered, high stakes standardized testing in our schools.

I will quote what I said in opposition to SB596. As a clinical psychologist working in schools for decades, I have tested thousands of students over the years. My rules for testing anyone are:

1. Does the testing give us actionable information that directly affects how we support the individual we are testing?
2. Is the information valid and reliable?
3. Can the testing help me identify strengths that can be emphasized and built on?

Current standardized state-required testing meets none of these criteria. I applaud the proposal to take a close look at what we are doing and better ways to achieve our ends.

But I have one caveat. While I fully respect the dedication and experience of the Department of Education staff, I have some question of whether the same organization that mandates this testing can fully assess its impact and problems. I urge that any study include diverse and extensive involvement of those on the ground who actually administer these tests and who are supposed to use the results in their classrooms.

Thank you for your attention to this and for your service.

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.
Retired clinical psychologist