

To the Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a retired Eugene 4J teacher with over 20 years teaching at the middle school and high school levels. Additionally, I have volunteered in a local preschool.

I first met Annie when she was in preschool. She was a joyful and curious child who came to school each day eager to learn new things. At the end of her last year in preschool, she looked forward to kindergarten in the fall.

Fall came—and so did standardized testing. “Annie needs extra practice for the test,” her teacher said. “She can do that during recess, then retake the test.”

When is testing too much? It is too much when students, like Annie, feel ashamed because they failed a standardized test.

When is testing too much? It is too much when parents, like Annie’s, make the difficult decision to home school their kids rather than to subject them to the testing—sorting—tracking model that has hurt our students.

When is testing too much? It is too much when students, like Annie and so many others, stop loving school.

I urge you to support House Bill 4124. Students, teachers, parents and community members deserve to know what is happening with standardized testing in our schools.

Sincerely,

Katherine Gorham