

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

I write in support of SB 948.

I worked in schools for many years as a psychologist and currently run the after school and summer programs at Family Promise of Tualatin Valley Bridge to Home family shelter.

I see the exuberance, the creativity and the joy that kids bring to what they do. But I also know that it is increasingly hard to direct those emotions towards learning in the school setting. At this point it sometimes feels that the harder we try, the more we fail. Our teachers are working so hard to fulfill the standards set for their students - and fighting against so many societal and financial roadblocks. For our students to succeed:

We need direct explicit instruction in reading and math to give kids the skills to move ahead.

We need good assessment to guide how to teach each student to their fullest. But assessment must inform the teacher and reflect what is being taught in the classroom.

We need students to have exposure to all the richness of our society - including learning about different cultures, art, music, literature, science, history, and civic engagement.

We need to serve the diverse needs of our students that must be met in order to learn and thrive - social emotional skills, housing, food, respect, health care, and support from adults around them.

And...we need to allow time for students to explore creatively, to socialize, to make independent decisions, and to think deeply.

In this panoply of demands, this last sometimes is lost. I know so many teachers who strive to inject guided play and joy into their teaching. And I know how hard it is to do that with all the other

demands they face. This bill opens the door for us to discuss and endorse this most central aspect of learning and of childhood - the centrality of play and the joy and creativity it brings.

I urge your support.

Thank you for your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.
Tualatin Oregon.