

February 4, 2025

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Senate Bill 948, the “Play Based Learning “ Bill, deserves your support. Over the past seven decades, the adults in the United States have gradually taken independent activity and play away from our children and essentially deprived our children of a childhood.

Dr. Peter Gray, a professor of psychology at Boston College, has noted that there are a number of correlational studies pointing to the reduction in opportunities to play having a negative impact on children. Today we are seeing higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicide rates among school-aged children, especially our teenagers.

SB 948 can be part of the solution to helping children improve their mental health, increase their school attendance rates, and at the same time improve their achievement in school by re-establishing effective, age-appropriate early childhood education practices.

All children need to feel capable, connected and able to contribute. Please support SB 948. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul “Pat” Eck, Member
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