

Submitter: Elaine Harris  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1596

Good morning Chair Frederick, Vice-chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Elaine Harris and I live in Newberg, Oregon. I retired from teaching in the Tigard-Tualatin School District several years ago. Thank you for bringing SB 1596 up for discussion today.

As a science teacher for 24 years, I taught students from grades 6 to 10 using a variety of teaching strategies to engage all of the learners all of the time. My most effective lessons started out with questions the students had about a unit topic. Then, together we constructed the unit accordingly from the objectives to the activities to how to show we met the objectives. There was always an element of play in the activities we created...kind of a natural thing. The lessons were enjoyable to teach and the students were engaged. At the end of the unit, the students evaluated themselves more critically than I would have. And then came standardized testing. It made my job harder.

When I heard of SB 1596, I knew that I had to write in support. Yes, to well-constructed, teacher-led "Active Playful Learning".