

**Halverson, Vicky**

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**From:** Kathy Knautz [knautzfamily@googlemail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2009 5:05 PM  
**To:** Kerkman, Samantha  
**Subject:** AB 119...

Dear Senators Wirch and Kerkman:

I am writing to you to ask you to vote against AB 119, a bill that would make five-year-old kindergarten mandatory. The bill is scheduled for a vote in the full Assembly tomorrow (Wednesday, September 16). I believe this is the wrong approach for our government to take for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe that having a general bill such as AB 119 works for all children. I did not send my son to kindergarten at 5 but at 6 because of his immaturity level at that time. His being a year older has helped him be better prepared for his current level of schooling. I believe that sending him to kindergarten at 5 years old would have been detrimental to his development. I believe that parents are the best people to be making this decision for their children, not the government and not a kindergarten teacher. Neither know the child as well as the parent.
2. I do not believe that this bill is needed. DPI statistics show that most parents send their children to school voluntarily; a threat is not needed. Truancy is not an issue for most 5 year old's (except maybe a few places in Milwaukee).
3. As an educator myself, I have read material that suggests that most of the academic gains made in Kindergarten is lost by third grade. [Cannon, Is Full Better than Half? RAND Working Paper Series No. WR-266, 2005].

Thank you for reading my views.

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