



R.E.A.P. Inc.

Reaching and Empowering All People
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May 2, 2013

Re: Testimony in support of HB 3232

Dear Co-chairs Sen. Monroe and Rep. Komp and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

On behalf of Reaching and Empowering All People (REAP), we support House Bill 3232.

If Oregon is going to remain relevant and economically viable there must be policies and practices in place to narrow the achievement gap that exists between historically underserved populations and white Oregonians on the key measures; and increase levels of educational attainment and employability for all Oregonians.

Since 2001, REAP has served a diverse population throughout Oregon. The organization works with more than 200 students, in grades seven through 12, who speak more than 15 native languages. REAP's mission is to be proactively involved to engage and empower the hidden leadership potential of students for a better **future now**, and it has achieved a **96% graduation success rate**.

REAP pursues its mission by investing in students and providing them a window into their future; elevating student voice and empowering students to be global leaders by conversing with educators, business & political leaders; developing innovation toward entrepreneurship; engaging students in problem solving projects for analytical and critical skill building. Learn more at www.REAPUSA.org

Again, REAP supports specific key investments that the Governor has identified HB 3232. We endorse funding to increase students' proficiency in science and math; increase their engagement and essential college and career skills; and connect students with the world of work. Additionally, the implementation of a comprehensive system for monitoring and guiding progress, and providing individualized planning, mentoring, tutoring, summer enrichment and/or other support services to students who are not on track to earn a high school diploma.

Sincerely,

Mark Jackson
Executive Director/Vice President