



April 16, 2015

DELIVERED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Senate Committee On Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301



Urban League  
of Portland



Children's  
Institute

Chair Roblan, Members of the Committee:

We write with our steadfast support of the early literacy strategies outlined in SB 214 by the Department of Education. We encourage you to keep the bill moving and to work with ODE to allocate resources to the Kindergarten Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account.



Oregon's investment in early intervention, increased access to high quality early learning environments and the building of an integrated pathway from early learning to kindergarten, puts our youngest Oregonians on track to reading proficiently by third grade, one of the single greatest predictors of lifelong success. Students reading above proficiency in the third grade, are twice as likely to graduate high school and three times as likely to go on to college.



But we can't shoulder meeting third grade reading proficiency on school districts alone. We know that the stakeholders in education extend beyond the classroom. Parents and community members want every child to have access to a quality education. And we can be part of the solution.



Many of us joined Oregon Department of Education, COSA, school superintendents, school board members and educators over a series of meetings to explore how to structure such a solution. SB 214 is the result of that work. In particular, our organizations highlight the partnerships with community-based nonprofits and school districts to meet literacy goals. CBOs are proven, effective strategies to increase parent engagement and improve educational outcomes through extended day, summer school and parent engagement programs.



We stand ready to support ODE in their implementation of SB 214. Thank you for your continued support of our kids.



Signed,



Asian Pacific American Network  
of Oregon  
Children's Institute  
Coalition of Communities of  
Color  
Hacienda CDC  
Kairos PDX  
Lower Columbia Hispanic  
Council  
Mano a Mano

Milagro Theatre  
Native American Youth & Family  
Center  
Northwest Health Foundation  
Playworks  
REAP  
Salem Keizer Coalition for  
Equality  
Self-Enhancement, Inc.  
Urban League of Portland



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