

March 16, 2017

Senator Monroe, Co-Chair
Representative Smith Warner, Co-Chair
Members of the Ways & Means Joint Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Monroe, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Frazier. I represent Children First for Oregon and United for Kids. We aim to make Oregon the best place to be a kid by working for the economic security, education, and health and safety of Oregon's 860,000 kids. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

It is my pleasure to introduce two representatives of our newest Children's Agenda partner – Reach Out and Read. Please welcome Program Director Maria Sleeman and Dr. Ellen Stevenson, a pediatrician. They will tell you about the benefits of the Reach Out and Read program before asking for your support in funding this efficient and effective project.

If you have some free time on April 13th, it'd be great to see you at an informational hearing on Reach Out and Read in the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports.

We know your schedules are tight. So, we shared a Youtube video with committee staff that provides a great example of how Reach Out and Read can turn a visit to the doctor into a literary adventure for children and families across the state.

Without further ado, I will turn it over to Ms. Maria Sleeman.