



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

College of Education

March 30, 2017

Oregon Senate Education Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of SB 221

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

I write today on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Education at the University of Oregon. First, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your efforts toward improving the literacy of Oregon's children, and doing so in a thoughtful, informed, and responsive manner. In addition, thank you for the opportunity to share the latest science on children with reading challenges, disabilities, and Dyslexia as part of your legislative deliberations. We think that the result of these dialogues have been codified in the proposed SB 221.

While fully cognizant of the fact that you have heard from many colleges, universities, parents, and community advocates, I offer an additional consideration as we move forward to better serve the literacy development of Oregon's children – the continuous improvement of our work.

As a research university college of education, we have the additional responsibility of bringing the best science to bear on literacy challenges. We are charged with conducting research that identifies “what works” for children with Dyslexia, infusing the latest science into our teacher training curricula, excising the old curricular components that are no longer scientifically supported, providing our new findings to teachers working in the field so that they can improve their practices, and then repeating this cycle of continuous improvement. Senate Bill 221 as written, allows us to continue to do better work by not yoking us to static guidelines that ultimately interfere with the continuous improvement of our training of educators.

I will provide a couple of recent examples of this cycle of continuous improvement. Last fall, we were selected as partners in the only National Comprehensive Literacy Center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, a five-year, \$7.5 million grant. The news release may be viewed at <https://around.uoregon.edu/content/uo-lead-national-comprehensive-literacy-center> . The overarching goal of the center is to, “...help schools across the country translate and apply existing research to help students with disabilities attain full literacy skills. The goal is to provide parents and educational organizations access to the most relevant and reliable approaches to screening, identifying and supporting students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia.” In addition, our early childhood education, early childhood special education, bilingual, and other

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

1215 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1215 T (541) 346-3405 F (541) 346-5818 www.uoregon.edu

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faculty recently formed the Alliance for Language Literacy, which complements the work of the new national center.

In the interest of brevity, I will close by again expressing our collective appreciation for your support of our efforts to prepare the best education personnel for Oregon. Please contact me if the College of Education may be of further service as you and your colleagues consider this bill or any other education-related initiatives.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RW Kamphaus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

R.W. Kamphaus, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor