



**STAND** | **OREGON**  
for children

Good morning, Co-chairs Frederick and McClain, and Members of the W&M's Education Subcommittee.

I am Sarah Pope, the executive director of Stand for Children Oregon.

I am speaking today in support of **House Bill 3198 -A7: The Early Literacy Success Initiative.**

With this critical legislation and proposed \$140 million in funding, we have an opportunity to quite literally change children's lives by ensuring more children leave third grade as strong readers and writers.

We just need to look to Oregon's High School Success Initiative, created by Measure 98, to see what happens when we *create and robustly fund* **research-proven, targeted, and accountable statewide initiatives to improve student outcomes.** We did that as a state through High School Success and we have seen a record increase in high school graduation rates, with students of color and low-income students making the biggest gains.

It is time to bookend that work because research shows children who are reading at grade level by 3rd grade are four times more likely to graduate from high school.

We applaud the legislature for taking this first step and providing \$140 million of *additional* funding for schools to start making this critical investment in research based instructional practices.

When the initiative is fully funded, it will cost \$300 million/biennium. With more than 180,000 children in the preK-3 age group and more than 7,600 educators, \$300 million/biennium is the cost of providing those educators with PL and coaching and curriculum updates, and the children who need it with tutoring and summer programming.

The science of reading is complex and layered; taking the research to life and implementing it every day in every classroom in Oregon is complicated *and* achievable.

We are standing at the precipice of being able to start that work. This focused policy, coupled with the proposed funding, will enable us to better support educators and students, and in turn ensure a brighter future for children in Oregon's early grades.

Thank you for your time, and I hope your support of HB 3198 -A7.