

Submitter: Christine Ertl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3198

I urge you to support HB 3198, not as an educator but as a retired mental health therapist. In my 30 years of work as a clinician, my focus was on young children, age 10 and under. Among those on my caseload were children who, because of their learning lags, were disruptive, anxious and oppositional in class. It was because they weren't able to read and keep up with their fellow students. So I want to call attention to the fact that reading lags in addition to impacting a student's ability to learn, also impact their mental health. I urge you to support HB 3198, not from a parent or educator perspective, but from a mental health lens. I am a retired Licensed Clinical Social worker and spent 30 years in practice focused on young children, under 10. In that time I worked with children who were disruptive, anxious, oppositional and distracted in the classroom. This was often because they were not able to read, to keep up with their classmates and their assignments. I want you to consider that reading lags impact mental health, which impacts academic success. Giving all students the opportunity to succeed is going to happen under HB 3198 so please support it.