

Submitter: Lisa Lyon
On Behalf Of: Decoding Dyslexia Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3198

It is undeniable that there is a literacy crisis in Oregon that needs to be remediated, ASAP. However, I believe effective legislation to fix this complicated issue must be directed by the state.

Unfortunately, HB 3198 prioritizes district choice over student needs and will not fulfill the desired equity goals of this legislation. This legislation allows for the continuation of the burden and inefficiency of having 197 superintendents and school boards be responsible for vetting curricula, high-dosage tutoring options, and professional development. In reading instruction, nothing can be left to chance. I believe the same must be true with legislation.

When dyslexia legislation was passed in 2015, it was mandated that ODE hire a specialist who was tasked with the implementation details: convening work groups to create rubrics and review screening tools and professional development options to create a menu from which districts could choose. There are no such provisions in this bill to ensure an effective rollout. The Oregon legislature must provide leadership and a cohesive, comprehensive commitment to the elements of this bill (curricula, HDT, professional development) so that reading success is not zip-code dependent.

Oregon is ignoring best practices from other states where the states have taken direct responsibility for literacy and have seen impressive, sustained gains in reading. I implore Oregon to examine legislation in other states where success has been measurable.