

Submitter: Debbie Gorenstein  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3198

I am retired school teacher. I taught for 38 years. This Bill addresses the reading chaos in classrooms. Children need the support of this bill to be successful and independent readers. I taught children from other countries with limited English struggling to read and children differently abled with neurological diversity finding peace within the classroom structure. I taught blended classrooms: 1/2, 2/3, 4/5/6. I loved teaching reading and I worked hard teaching myself structures other than whole language. I realized that young readers thrive with well rounded, researched and successful reading systems. There is a mishmash of programs in public schools. There are struggling readers in classrooms. Most primary teachers are not trained to teach phonics. I have had to create a phonics' program on my own to support my District's Whole Language option using Lucy Cawkins Reading and Writing Program. Children need the structure of phonics, stories that engage children, discussions about literature, and a classroom that supports children's diverse reading abilities.