

April 3, 2023

RE: House Bill 3198 Early Literacy Success

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright and members of the House Education Committee

Please regard this written testimony as the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe support of establishing the Early Literacy Success Initiative. Creating a foundation of lifelong learning through literacy is vital to Oregon's success. Especially if the formation of this initiative is focused on a culturally responsive approach to engaging Tribal families and Tribal children.

The Tribes of Oregon have a long and rich history of oral story telling. As you look at this bill and consider funding the investment of \$120M in our families and children - we respectfully request that Tribal lifeways continue to be included in the discussion.

The Cow Creek Tribe supports our children and their families in their individual educational journeys. The federal policies that were responsible for the attempted eradication of Tribal identity, language and Tribal culture cannot be erased from our history. But we do have an opportunity to fold language and culture back into our future programs so that ALL Oregonians are respected and represented.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Sandy Henry
Education Director
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe