

**JANEEN SOLLMAN**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**DISTRICT 15**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

April 3, 2023

TO: House Committee on Education in support of HB 3198

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson and Wright and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3198. This bill establishes the Early Literacy Success Initiative, Birth Through Five Literacy Plan, and Early Literacy Success Community Grant program. This legislation will improve reading outcomes with the implementation of research-proven and targeted solutions with an accountability-driven approach that has been proved to work.

Reading is a basic essential skill for success in school that unfortunately, not all students are proficient at. Children who are not on grade level for reading by the end of third grade are four times as likely to drop out of high school. This also disproportionately affects students of color, more specifically only 26% of Black students were reading proficiently by the third grade before the pandemic. Oregon is among the states with the lowest reading scores which necessitates an urgent change in our system. This policy will create literacy coaching for educators, create culturally responsive summer learning opportunities, and give intensive tutoring for students. It will implement an early literacy curriculum, professional learning opportunities, and culturally relevant instructional materials that are aligned with the science of reading and writing. Reading is an essential skill for both work and pleasure; it is therefore incredibly important for the future success of our youth.

“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”  
~Malala Yousafzai

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my support of HB 3198. I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Senate District 15