

Submitter: Judith Castillo
On Behalf Of: HB 3198
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hello Chairs and members of the committee, thank you for listening to so many of us today. For the record my name is Judy Castillo and I organize with Stand for Children. I am here today because most Oregon children are not reading at grade level. These children will struggle all through school, and are 4 times more likely to drop out. It is a crisis. I urge you to fully fund the Early Literacy bill, to address this, HB 3198. I have heard moving stories from parents and educators about our children's literacy. Stories about teachers graduating from university without the skills they need to teach reading in ways that work for all students. Stories about 16 year olds reading at a 4th grade level, deprived of the opportunity to develop a love of reading and learning. But these are more than just stories, these are the lives of children who will not have a fair chance to succeed in school, or be successful adults. These children are our responsibility. The good news is that we know how to fix it. We know scientifically how people learn to read. There is no one action that will solve this crisis, we need a comprehensive approach that is proven to work. That is why it is important we invest in the 4 components: teacher training and coaching, curriculum based on the science of reading that is culturally relevant, high dosage tutoring, and summer programs to help our kids succeed. Students, Teachers, districts, families, community members – they all want support. I know you have all made great efforts to be here and choose which bills receive funding, and I want to thank you for that. I believe that HB 3198 is key to a successful future for our children. I urge you to fully fund House Bill 3198-3. Thank you.