

Submitter: Sokho Eath

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2007

March 19, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Dobson and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Sokho Eath and I am testifying today with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization ("IRCO").

We are thankful for the opportunity to testify on this bill and the work done so far around summer learning and after school learning.

We raise for policy makers to consider several important points. We believe summer learning and after school programming, in order to support all of Oregon's students on the building blocks of literacy, must take into account strategies involving student enrichment, social emotional wellbeing, and sense of belonging. That means culturally specific and responsive work that meets the diverse needs of all our students.

This and proposed amendments must look at the longstanding work done with the students most in need, built off experience from community partnerships addressing historically underserved communities – especially our students of refugee, immigrant, and BIPOC community backgrounds – of all ranges of English language ability and skill. Summer learning and after school programming are essential components of a student's journey – and more support, not less, is needed in this time to improve all of Oregon's students to succeed through literacy skills.

We urge you to examine and include these important points in a holistic approach for a meaningful, long-term policy.

Thank you for your time.