

Chair Neron and members of the committee,

I am writing to support HB2007 -1 with some caveats. There has been much good testimony about both the strengths and challenges of this bill and I expect the -2 amendment will address many of these.

- 1) Program funding needs to be available early enough that programs can be planned far in advance.
- 2) Funding needs to be as reliable as possible so that we can build on the learning and success of ongoing programs.
- 3) We continue to struggle with the integration of enrichment and explicit instruction in teaching reading. Clear parameters that embrace both of these are important for a program to succeed.

As a volunteer, I run an after school and summer program at Family Promise of Tualatin Valley family shelter. I was deeply disappointed last summer when I learned that there would be no summer program available for our students because our school district didn't have enough need to qualify for part of the \$30 million set aside for this purpose. Somehow, we need to find ways to prevent the learning slide that happens to our most vulnerable kids if they don't live in one of the funded districts.

With the support of wonderful volunteers, we were able to run a summer program that included many enrichment activities. But, we didn't have the resources for explicit instruction. We lost a chance to use a pivotal time in these kids' lives.

I know the committee joins me in wishing we could serve all in need and I respect the difficult decisions around how to make funding stretch. As we as a state move forward in assessing revenue and its uses, I hope we can find ways to extend the opportunity to both learn and thrive to all our kids in need.

Thank you for your concern and your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.