



Northwest Regional Early Learning Hub

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

I write on behalf of Northwest Early Learning Hub in **support of HB 3198**, the Early Literacy Success Initiative. Northwest Early Learning Hub's mission is to work collaboratively across sectors to support coordinated systems that are child-centered, family-friendly, linguistically appropriate and community based to meet the needs of the populations and communities of Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties.

Supporting early literacy development is at the core of the work we do in partnership with parents, community organizations, and sector partners. Our Hub invests funding and staff capacity to support early literacy development in the following ways:

- Distribute funding support and coordinate implementation of Ready for K, a kinder readiness program that consists of three, 90-minute parent workshops for each of the first five years of their child's life. The program includes specific early language & literacy activities for **parents to play with purpose** with their children, **age level goals** to aim for, and materials and toys to make **learning at home** fun, easy, and effective.
- Support the distribution of **64,053 free monthly books to 2,727 children** through access to Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- Provide culturally specific parenting workshops and series that promote the **critical role parents play** in developing early literacy skills at home.

Research tells us that early literacy development is a continuous developmental process that begins in the first years of life. We know that children gain significant knowledge of language, reading, and writing, long before they enter school. The inclusion of a dedicated fund for birth to 5 in the Early Literacy Success Initiative acknowledges this critical time for early language and literacy development. These dedicated funds will allow early learning hubs and our community partners to broaden the impact of our early literacy work and serve more children and their families.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Spence
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