

Submitter: Leah Emmett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3198

Dear Representatives, Senators and Governor Kotek, My name is Leah Emmett and I am the mother of a 10 year old dyslexic learner. I am also a Registered Nurse. In my line of work we apply Evidence Based Practice (EBP) to ensure our patients have the best possible outcomes. We know, based on evidence and nursing research, what practices work to prevent infections, complications and death for our patients. It would be unethical and immoral if we didn't utilize EBP. The same goes for reading instruction. We know that direct, explicit instruction based on the science of reading provides the best possible outcomes for students. Unfortunately, we are all too aware of the consequences for students when they are not strong readers by the 3rd grade: they are 4 times less likely to graduate High School and people without a high school diploma are more likely to report poor health, higher unemployment, higher rates of incarceration and increased risk of premature death. (See sources A, B and C below) It is immoral and unethical that Oregon doesn't currently provide our students with evidence based instruction given the incredible consequences our society suffers as a result. My son's school provides him with intensive reading intervention during the school day and he is making progress in his reading, but it is still a struggle. Our family spends thousands of dollars a year for private tutoring which provides him with direct and explicit reading instruction grounded in the science of reading. I know my son will be a reader because we have the ability to ensure he receives the help he needs but my concern is for kiddos whose families don't have the means to provide their student with additional instruction outside of school hours. HB 3198 is a good start at prioritizing early literacy in our state by offering school districts the opportunity to apply for grants that fund coaching for teachers and administrators in early literacy, provide summer programs to struggling students, provide high dose tutoring to students and ensure early literacy curriculum aligns with the science of reading. All of these interventions will help support students on their way to becoming proficient readers by 3rd grade. Please lend your support to HB 3198 Sources: A. <https://www.aecf.org/resources/double-jeopardy> B. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/high-school-graduation#:~:text=Individuals%20who%20do%20not%20graduate,self%2Dreport%20overall%20poor%20health.&text=They%20also%20more%20frequently%20report,o r%20stomach%20ulcers%20%E2%80%94%20than%20graduates.> C. <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/what-is-the-impact-of-high-school-graduation-rates>