

4/03/2023

Good day Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright and Members of the House committee.

I am Josué Perez. I am a dad of an 11-year-old and an 8-year-old who attend the Salem Keizer School District. I am also a member of the parent group for the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality.

I want to start by saying that I fully support bill HB3198 - Establishing Early Literacy Success Initiative.

The COVID pandemic impact to our society was not only economical but also highly affected our students across our State. It is obvious there is a literacy emergency throughout our Prekindergarten and Elementary population. Maybe more evident in the student population that has historically experienced academic disparities (listed in Bill Section 1.5.a to h). I believe that with the help of schools the tutoring, coaching and special programs will allow our students to improve their literacy and get them back to the levels they need to be. Especially for student groups that have been unfairly and unrightfully impacted due to being a minority.

I also believe that the longer we take to pass this Bill, students will fall back even more and the crisis we are in will only get worse.

Therefore I urge you to pass and get into action to improve the literacy levels equally for ALL STUDENTS.

Sincerely,

Josué Pérez