

Submitter: Katherine Hoffman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3040  
Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. I am the parent of 3 children in Portland Public Schools, one of whom has dyslexia. I implore you to take decisive action in implementing structured literacy in all Oregon classrooms rather than allocating funds for yet another report.

We do not need another study to tell us what we already know—structured literacy is the most effective way to teach all children to read, particularly those with dyslexia and other reading challenges. The science of reading is settled. The research is clear. Every credible study confirms that explicit, systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension is essential for literacy success.

Every day I see the consequences of Oregon's failure to implement evidence-based reading instruction. My own child and so many of her peers are bright, capable, and eager to learn but they struggle with reading because they were not taught using methods aligned with the science of reading. Instead, they have been subjected to approaches that rely on guessing, memorization, and ineffective strategies that leave them frustrated and falling further behind.

Dyslexia affects at least one in five children. Without structured literacy, these students are set up to fail. But structured literacy doesn't only help those students, every child in a classroom can benefit from learning through these scientifically proven methods. There is no drawback, no side effect, and no increased cost versus different curriculum.

The cost of inaction is devastating—not just for our students, but for our state. We are paying for illiteracy in special education costs, in lost economic productivity, and in our juvenile justice system, where over 80% of incarcerated youth struggle with reading. The funds we might spend on another report could be better used to train teachers in structured literacy and ensure that all children have access to the instruction they need.

Our family has spent over \$5,000 in testing and tutoring in the past 2 years to allow our child to read - something that should be foundational in every classroom. Once she began working with a tutor using structured literacy she went from only knowing a few sight words to reading early novels within a year. These weren't magical

methods being used, they are well known and simple to implement teaching methods that should be the norm in Oregon K-5 classes.

Oregon has an opportunity to lead. Other states, such as Mississippi and Louisiana, have embraced structured literacy and have seen dramatic improvements in reading scores. We must follow suit.

Our children cannot afford more delays. I urge you to take action now and mandate structured literacy in all Oregon classrooms. Let's invest in immediately training teachers — not another report to tell us information we already know.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to improving literacy for all students in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Hoffman