



Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Education Association (OEA), representing over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state. OEA strongly supports HB 3040 and the proposed -1 amendments, which aim to enhance Oregon's Early Literacy Success Initiative. We also want to express our appreciation to the Governor and her staff for their leadership in advancing early literacy as a priority for Oregon's students.

The -1 amendments introduce important new elements to strengthen literacy efforts across the state, including:

- **Expanded Professional Development and Coaching:** Ensuring research-aligned literacy training is available not only for teachers but also for administrators, instructional assistants, and other staff as identified by the State Board of Education.
- **Inclusion of Extended Learning Programs:** Supporting home-based summer reading activities and intensive summer school programs to provide additional literacy opportunities outside the regular school year.
- **Targeted High-Dosage Tutoring:** Incorporating integrated reading and writing tutoring for students in early elementary grades, delivered by trained educators using evidence-based strategies.
- **Greater Flexibility in Grant Funding:** Aligning grant programs with existing school improvement strategies to ensure efficient use of resources and prioritization of schools with the lowest literacy proficiency rates.

Additionally, the amendments emphasize prioritizing schools with the lowest literacy proficiency rates and aligning grant programs with existing improvement strategies administered by the Department of Education. These investments will have a meaningful impact on ensuring that all Oregon students have access to high-quality early literacy instruction.

We would have liked to see some flexibility in funding to support literacy interventions for students in grades four and five. Allowing up to 10% of the funds to be used in this way would help address the needs of students who continue to struggle with foundational literacy skills, particularly those who have experienced gaps in schooling or barriers to learning, such as undiagnosed vision issues that have delayed their ability to engage with text. Providing targeted support for these students would ensure they receive the assistance necessary to continue progressing in their literacy development.



OEA appreciates the Governor and her staff for prioritizing early literacy and the Legislature's leadership in advancing literacy outcomes for Oregon's students and educators. HB 3040, with the proposed -1 amendments, represents a meaningful step forward in strengthening early literacy instruction across the state, and we encourage its passage with the consideration of additional support for older elementary students in need of intervention.

Thank you for your time and consideration.