



March 19, 2025

Rep. Courtney Neron, Chair
House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3040. My name is Jessica Cobian, the Government Affairs Manager of Stand for Children Oregon.

HB 3040 makes three technical fixes to Early Literacy Success Initiative:

- **Expanding grant eligibility for curriculum through grade 5** – Previously language limited curriculum purchases to grade 3. This expansion ensures districts can use funds to purchase research-aligned curriculum that spans through fifth grade. While it's important the work stays focused on preK-3 students, this fix makes the purchasing of curriculum more streamlined for districts.
- **Broadening access to professional development and building-based support** – Literacy training would become more widely available to educators *and* staff, increasing the number of trained literacy professionals and strengthening student support systems.
- **Directing districts not meeting their literacy goals to use an approved list of research-aligned textbooks and instructional materials** – Evidence-based instruction is key to student success, and ensuring all districts align with best practices will improve literacy outcomes statewide. Important to note, it will become absolutely critical that ODE produces and maintains a high-quality, research-aligned curriculum list.

Oregon's focused investments in literacy are starting to work. Data from Stand's demonstration schools show that current first graders are writing at levels at or above last year's outgoing first graders by midyear—a testament to the effectiveness of structured, research-based interventions. We support these technical changes outlined in HB 3040. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Cobian
Government Affairs Manager, Stand for Children Oregon