

To: Committee on Education Members


From: Traci Marcum, MSE

I am a concerned parent and former educator who is writing to encourage the Committee on Education to pass Senate Bill No. 75.

I have seen firsthand how the public school system has missed the fundamental needs when it comes to teaching every child how to read. As a former high school teacher, I have taught many students who cannot read or take notes properly. This not only is sad to see in high school, but it is very hard to look at the shame on a student's face when they have to read out loud or turn in an assignment. I believe that if we do not simplify the methods in which we teach our students to read, more students will get lost in the shuffle. It is imperative that we teach basic phonic lessons to ensure that every child will learn the easiest and most fundamental way of learning.

I am also a mother of three and have seen firsthand how the school way of teaching basic reading is not always the best. My children have had the same kindergarten and first grade teacher in school. My oldest child had no problem learning how to read, but my middle child has struggled from the beginning. It wasn't until I hired a reading specialist that focused on basic phonics when I noticed a change in his ability and desire to read. I feel that if I was not able to afford this service, my child would still be struggling. We must make explicit phonics available in all schools to ensure that all students are learning to read.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Traci Marcum, MSE 

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