

EQUITABLE LITERACY FOR ALL

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www.equitableliteracyforall.org

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
1021 O Street
Suite 5250
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: **AB 2222 (Rubio) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

We write on behalf of *Equitable Literacy for All* in support of **AB 2222**. Learning to read is a right for all California students because it is the gateway to opportunity. **AB 2222** is needed because there is no greater issue concerning our state's public education than ensuring California students achieve literacy.

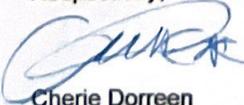
We are a group of informed parents, advocates, educators, and supporters who collectively brought a statewide resolution entitled "*Equitable Literacy for All Students*" to the California PTA. We are proud to support **AB 2222** which aligns with the tenets of that Resolution, and provides a much-needed, statewide comprehensive framework that will support our educators, and all children in their classrooms. **AB 2222** will require updates to state-adopted English language arts, English language development, and reading instructional materials. In addition, the bill calls for professional development for elementary educators in evidence-based literacy instruction that adheres to the science of reading. The bill will also improve accountability in teacher preparation programs related to new literacy teaching standards and provide support for professional development for teacher preparation faculty.

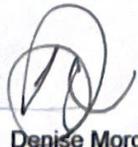
Nearly 178,000 economically disadvantaged third graders in California are not meeting state standards for English language arts, and the majority of those falling behind are children who are disproportionately Black, Latino, English Learners and students with disabilities. Early learning gaps often turn into lifelong opportunity gaps. By third grade, students move from learning to read to reading to learn, and those who are not on grade level rarely catch up. This is a major contributing factor to the 28% adult illiteracy rate in our state, one of the highest in the nation. Adults with limited literacy are more likely to be unemployed, disenfranchised, and suffer from poor health conditions.

Research suggests that with effective reading instruction grounded in the science of reading, more than 90% of students would learn to read. Adhering to the science of reading means following evidence from a large body of interdisciplinary research that guides effective classroom practices benefitting all students, including English learners and students with or at risk for dyslexia.

We must prioritize equitable access to opportunity for children by ensuring that they can read. This is not just an education issue, it's a social justice issue. Please vote **AYE** on **AB 2222**.

Respectfully,


Cherie Dorreen
Co-Founder


Denise Morgan
Co-Founder

CC: The Honorable Al Muratsuchi, Chair, Assembly Committee on Education
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Education