HR 650 – House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction

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Shameless introduction to...

SCIENCE FOR GEORGIA
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PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University
AAAS S&T Policy Fellow, National Science Foundation
GTRI Researcher – Deputy Chief Scientist, Big Data Vertical
2 Start-ups, data analytics Product Manager
When asked:

“Can you name a living scientist?”

81% could not
About Science for Georgia

To improve communication among scientists and the public
About Science for Georgia

Increase public engagement with science
About Science for Georgia

Advocate for the responsible use of science in public policy
Let’s get to root problems...

- Vicious cycles can become virtuous cycles.
- Economic incentives are key.
- That which can be measured can be achieved / improved...
- Keep it simple.
2021-22 Focus & Accomplishments

Food
Roundtable
Testimony before Sen Special Committee
SB 537

Water
Trust fund allocation
Coal Ash

Education
Resolution – Reading Month and Literacy Panel
Edu & Workforce Speaker Series & Roundtable
HR 650
The Awful Stats

60% CAN’T READ PROFICIENTLY – READ AND COMPREHEND

READING IS AN INDICATOR OF HS GRADUATION – REGARDLESS OF LIVE SITUATION...
Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

Science has shown that evidence-based literacy instruction
- improves outcomes
- can be taught by teachers
- is really the only effective method for those with a learning disability
- and that a large majority of those learning this way will not need expensive, time consuming, interventions

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What is evidence-based literacy?

- Any evidence-based practice that improves a person’s fluency, vocabulary, phonemic awareness, phonics, and comprehension.

Not just reading and writing curriculums but...

- Two-gen programs
- Maternal mental health
- Relatable science experiments
Why HR 650?
Political situation

- States are passing evidence-based literacy legislation
- Outsiders are realizing that it is a pipeline from birth to death
- Awash with COVID relief funds

BUT...

Georgia is a local control state
Organizations working in this space.
Literacy is the common thread.

- DFACS
- DOE
- TCSG
- USG
- Deal Center
- Libraries
- GA Family Connection Partnership
- Cox Campus
- Reach Out and Read
- Decoding for Dyslexia
- Literacy for All
- Learn for Life
- Share the Magic
- Voices for Georgia Children
- GEEARS
- Leap Year
- Urban League
- Etc, etc, etc
HR 650 – Establish a committee to...

- Define evidence-based literacy
- Determine impact of low-literacy on economic competitiveness
- Determine extent of programs working in birth through retirement
- Examine how programs can work together
- Examine how evidence-based programs can adapt as new evidence emerges
- Examine any changes that should be made to educational standards to support evidence-based instruction
- Determine how the state can support local education ecosystem
- Study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems and recommend any action or legislation
End Goal

- Report on lessons learned
- Recommend policies (as necessary)
Committee Members

- 5 members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House
- Department of Early Care and Learning
- Department of Education
- Technical College System of Georgia
- University System of Georgia
- Office of Student Achievement
- Deal Center
- Academic or business who specializes in study of complex systems
- Not-for-profit entity involved in Georgia and national literacy efforts
- A classroom teacher who specializes in literacy
Who should speak before the committee?

Send me all the names.

Dream world – the main outcome of this committee would be...

(you only get 2 main goals)

https://sciencelookup.org/knowledge-base1/get-involved-house-study-committee-on-literacy-instruction/

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