



COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Floor Remarks of Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Chairman
Education and Workforce Committee
H.R. 7890, *Science of Reading Act of 2026*
September 16, 2026

(As prepared for delivery)

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7890, *Science of Reading Act of 2026*.

I could stand here and rattle off test score after test score, study after study, but I'll spare us the time and give you the gist—our children's literacy rates are plummeting.

So how did we get here?

There are many reasons. But one is that, for generations, students were taught to read through phonics—identifying letters and the sounds they represent. But in recent years, some educators have moved away from phonics and encouraged students to guess words based on context or pictures. This approach has failed too many students.

How can a child learning to read be expected to use comprehension skills they haven't developed yet? It's clear why this doesn't work.

Science of Reading Act puts phonics-based instruction at the forefront of federal literacy funding.

Literacy is a gateway skill. If students can't read, they can't fully access learning in other subjects—and the consequences can extend far beyond the classroom.

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

It's time to move away from failed theories and restore evidence-based reading instruction that actually works. Our children deserve an education grounded in what the evidence tells us, not the latest educational fad.