

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bruun, Cannon, Dembrow, Garrett, Harker, Kennemer, Kotek, Thompson, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Maurer

Prepared By: Roxie Cuellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/3, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates pilot project of no more than six federal Head Start program providers in Oregon to implement health literacy program. Establishes that goal is to improve communication between parents of children in Head Start programs and health care professionals to help parents seek appropriate levels of care.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health literacy for parents of Head Start children reduces health costs
- Parents become more informed on treatment of common childhood ailments
- Reduces emergency rooms visits for nonemergency childhood ailments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT: Makes it discretionary, so the Department of Education (DOE) need not do the pilot project if funds are not available. Deletes language that requires that DOE “shall select no more than six” Head Start programs for the pilot project and allows DOE to “select one or more”. Establishes that DOE may use available funds for administering the pilot project, with remaining funds paid into an account established to the credit of the pilot projects.

BACKGROUND: Parents of children in Head Start programs often suffer from low health literacy and can put unwarranted pressure on the health care systems. Parents, for example, often take children to emergency rooms for common childhood ailments. Both California and Washington have limited programs to provide training to Head Start staffs and information to parents about common ailments, such as colds and chicken pox. The goals are healthier children and reduced demands for costly emergency room treatments by making parents more aware of when and where to seek medical treatment for their children.