

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Morse
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/28

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:

- Parents become better informed on treatment of common childhood ailments
- Health literacy for parents of Head Start children reduces health care costs
- Emergency room visits for non-emergency childhood ailments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Parents of children in Head Start programs often suffer from low health literacy and can put unwarranted pressure on the health care systems by, for example, taking children to emergency rooms for common childhood ailments.

Both California and Washington have limited programs to provide training to Head Start staff 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.