

MEASURE: HB 4165
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SUBMITTED BY: Ann Stone

February 7, 2012



Rep. Vic Gilliam, Co-Chair, Human Services
Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Co-Chair
Rep. Lew Frederick, Co- Vice Chair
Rep. Jim Thompson, Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Mitch Greenlick
Rep. Chris Harker
Rep. Julie Parrish
Rep. Jim Weidner

Dear Co-Chairs Gilliam and Tomei and Committee Members:

RE: HB 4156

As the only statewide advocacy group for children made up of health experts working to improve the physical, mental, and emotional health of children in Oregon, the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS) supports HB 4165. In my role as the OPS Executive Director I served on the Governor's Early Childhood Design Team and in the late 1990's I provided staff to a local Commission on Children and Families and for eight years I served as the United Way of the Columbia Willamette Success By 6© Director.

The Governor's proposal as embodied in HB 4156 brings a long overdue emphasis to building a real system for supports needed in the most crucial years of child development. Every day, physicians, nurse practitioners, RNs, and other health providers sit in an ideal position to positively affect the child's first 1,000 days of growth and development as 99% of all young children are seen in the child health system. There is no other place in the early childhood system that sees our youngest Oregonians with regularity.

The OPS has been training primary care providers across the state to do universal standardized developmental screening for the past three years. After having trained roughly 1,000 health care professionals, I can say with assuredness that they are still often siloed from the community supports that need to be on the same team when a child is identified to be at risk for poor school readiness outcomes. We need to connect health systems, screening for risk factors and then created a tiered response from the community so that those children and families that need more support can get more intensive help and those that need less get monitoring to assure best outcomes. This bill represents the beginnings of such a system that affords us strong bridge opportunities between the Early Learning System and the Coordinated Care Organizations of the Health Reform effort toward maximum accountability for child outcomes across sectors.

To achieve long-term health and wellness of Oregonians we need to reduce adverse early childhood experiences and bring kindergartners into school with the social emotional sturdiness they need to succeed and an eagerness to learn. A true systemic approach that builds health over

the lifespan, which sets the stage for school readiness from birth, leveraging the expertise of the medical community toward child development is a critical goal to changing Oregon's child readiness outcomes. HB 4156 will take the state's focus where it should be—on the whole child, on measurable outcomes, and on better use of resources.

Please join us in supporting HB 4146.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Stone MA, MPA
Executive Director
START Manager

David Willis, MD, FAAP
Immediate Past President