

MEASURE: HB 4165
EXHIBIT: 17
2012 SESSION H RULES
DATE: 2/8/12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Betsy Earls



Associated Oregon Industries

1149 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4030

telephone: 503.588.0050
portland: 503.227.5636
statewide: 800.452.7862
fax: 503.588.0052

www.aoi.org

AOI TESTIMONY – HB 4165 BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 9, 2012

AOI Supports HB 4165

AOI strongly supports the Governor's efforts to reshape Oregon's fractured system of investments in Early Childhood Education and Care, and House Bill 4165 is an important step toward that goal.

For Oregon's economy and its businesses to compete effectively in a globally competitive economy, its citizens and workers must be better educated. Our state's economic and competitive success depends on having a wealth of well-educated and skilled employees.

Research in the last decade has only reinforced what we already know – the early years are when the brain develops, and how the brain develops is perhaps the key determinant in the obstacles or opportunities a child will face in school and in life.

No government spending will have a bigger return on investment than investing in Early Learning. Preparing children for kindergarten and ensuring that their families have the assets to succeed will make the K-12 experience more successful for the child, the family, the school, and our state.

The business and philanthropic communities invest substantial funds in programs in communities across Oregon related to Early Learning. That investment could be leveraged better if the state were to develop a more outcome focused, intentional system for its own investments.

Early Childhood education programs greatly improve the chances for disadvantaged children to succeed in school and later in life. For every dollar invested today, savings range from \$2.50 to as much as \$17 over time.

AOI's members are focused on growing a strong economy in Oregon, which we know is dependent upon quality education

HB 4165 puts Early Learning at the top of Oregon's agenda for the future, and focuses attention toward improving the outcomes for children and families to deliver better results for the dollars Oregon already spends.