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## HB 4165

### Helping Oregon's Children Enter School Ready to Learn

SEIU Local 503 strongly supports the governor's efforts to better coordinate early childhood services in order to better serve the children and families of Oregon. We support the continued efforts of the Early Learning Council (ELC) and hope that we can work collaboratively to improve the quality and coordination of services.

### Parent Choice in Childcare

SEIU believes that parent choice must be protected when it comes to selecting a childcare provider. SEIU supports efforts to improve the quality of childcare through increased access to training and resources. We have sponsored legislation to make training mandatory for our members and bargained to increased access to training opportunities. We encourage the Early Learning Council to find ways for providers to improve their skills and access resources to improve the quality of care they provide, but we want to ensure that the ELC does not limit access to the provider of a parent's choice. Quality childcare can be provided in many different settings and selecting the right care provider for your child is a very important and personal choice.

### Employment Related Day Care

The ERDC program makes it possible for many signal parents to work and provide for their families. ERDC provides earlier learning opportunities, but it does a whole lot more. ERDC provides childcare subsidies for children up to 12 years old including after school care and odd hour care. SEIU sees ERDC as a self sufficiency program and an important part of the services DHS provides to families in need. We have questions about how the mission of ERDC will be impacted if moved under the ELC. We believe DHS should coordinate with the ELC on quality improvement initiative for ERDC providers.

### Keeping DHS the One Stop for Eligibility for State Programs

DHS has worked hard over the last several years to streamline eligibility. It is now much easier and quicker for families to access the services and supports they need. SEIU wants to ensure that families can access the services they need in one location. Will eligibility for state services stay with DHS or be divided between DHS and the ELC hubs?

### Further Questions

While we understand there are amendments to come, there are many of the details yet to be determined. We wonder if the ELC needs more time to flesh out the accountability hub structure and the role of the family support manager. What are the qualifications and duties of the Family Support Manager? We have a number of questions on these areas. How

are we funding these positions? Will we be reducing funds going directly to services? How are restrictions on the use of federal funds being considered? How will the legislature have oversight over the structure and services of the ELC and the creation of the hubs? How will Family Support Managers be trained to protect parent choice? SEIU would like greater clarity regarding how the ELC will function and how it will impact families and providers.