



Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education

SETTING STANDARDS
DEVELOPING SYSTEMS
PROVIDING SUPPORTS

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Testimony to the House Education Committee regarding HB 3233

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Presented by Pamela Deardorff

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am the Director of the Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education (OCCD) at Portland State University. Thank you for this opportunity to express support for HB 3233, a bill to establish a "Network of Quality Teaching and Learning" in the state of Oregon.

The OCCD was established in 1990 to provide leadership in the development and operation of statewide, integrated professional development standards and systems for early learning and afterschool educators. OCCD promotes professional development to achieve high quality care and education for young children and youth.

OCCD administers a professional development registry for all early learning and afterschool educators in Oregon. Currently we have over 30,000 individuals with training and education documentation in our database. This registry tracks the ongoing training and education requirements of individuals working in facilities licensed by the Child Care Division and awards "Steps" based on increased training and/or education across a set of workforce standards (the Core Body of Knowledge for Oregon's Childhood Care and Education Profession). OCCD also coordinates a trainer program of close to 600 approved trainers who provide professional development to the early learning and afterschool workforce. It has been our mission for almost 20 years to improve the quality of early learning and afterschool education environments through the preparation and ongoing professional development of the workforce.

OCCD is very aware of the importance of professional development for all educators including those who are working with our youngest children and afterschool youth who spend many hours in the care of these individuals. It is imperative that our workforce receive research based resources and supports to ensure that our youngest children reach kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life and that the efforts of our K-12 educators are continued into the afterschool environments.

A key focus for OCCD and HB 3233 is to ensure that educators of young children and after school youth in Oregon have the knowledge and skills needed to prepare children for school and life. HB 3233 addresses this important mission by creating a system that would coordinate resources supporting professional growth of all educators including early learning and afterschool educators; connects preparation programs to current needs of our educators and children; continues to stay abreast of the targets and communicates best practices for serving children within the context in which they live.

I thank you for considering HR 3233 and for this opportunity to express my support for the bill. I would be pleased to discuss this in further detail with the committee if desired.