



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 18, 2013

HB 2013 Comments to the House Human Service Committee

Dear Colleagues,

Early Learning Council (ELC) was created in 2011 and the State Commission on Children and Families system's mission was transferred into the ELC & Youth Development Council (YDC).

In 2011, I strongly argued in opposition to this action. However, legislation was passed. Now, about two years later, this committee has received presentations by the ELC on what they "want to do."

From ELC's literature, the ELC will complete the phase-out of the old commission system and implement an outcome-focused, locally-led delivery system of coordinated services responsible for ensuring at-risk children arriving at kindergarten.

HB 2013 does not present an acceptable plan to do what ELC has said they will do.

Based upon my legislative experience, when this body does not have a plan to accomplish its objective; it delays the necessary action by establishing a work group, task force, or pilot project.

Oregon children and families cannot wait for an ELC action plan to take over the Commission on Children & Families' mission.

HB 2013 in Section 12 establishes an undetermined number of demonstration projects for an undetermined period to "foster the creation of locally developed models of early learning service delivery."

We had a system of early learning service delivery but the Governor and the leadership of this body decided to replace it with the ELC and YDC.

I am very disappointed and seriously concerned about the children and families who are now receiving services. The services are scheduled to end on June 30th because there is no transition plan to assume this mission on July 1st.

In my opinion, the Governor and the legislative leadership have NOT presented a transition plan or an outcome focused plan for a locally- led delivery system for at-risk children.

Further, I believe this failure will have a serious negative impact on our 40-40-20 education goal.

Respectfully,

Gene Whisnant