

## House Bill 2013

*Comments by Deschutes County Commissioner Tammy Baney before the House Human Services and Housing Committee*

### **AOC Broadly Supports the Vision of House Bill 2013**

The Association of Oregon Counties supports the efforts and vision of HB 2013. As written the bill raises a few questions that need to be clarified. AOC looks forward to working with the legislature and being part of the solution.

1. What happens to the areas of the state outside of the five approved demonstration projects?

Counties all over the state have been working hard for the past two years to prepare for the transition from the local counties to the proposed Early Learning Hubs. AOC feels that the communities that are ready to transition should do so at the earliest possible time. By limiting the number of communities to transition to five, many communities may lose the momentum they have already built. Additionally, much of the transition work has been driven by county staff and there is the risk of losing that staff with the loss of the Commissions on Children and Family basic capacity funding.

2. HB2013 is silent on the role and funding of local public health. During the past two years there have been discussions of several public health programs being included in the Early Learning Initiative. How will the demonstration projects or hubs interact with local public Health?

AOC agrees with the vision of a focus on early childhood education but we also want to ensure that local public health continues to focus on the health of these children. AOC strongly supports the coordination of efforts between the demonstration projects or hubs and local public health and would like to see more details on how these programs are envisioned to work together.

3. Will there be funding to support the building of local data systems for the data collection, analysis and reporting from data gathered through screening?

The success of the demonstration projects or hubs will rest on their ability to screen children, collect data from these screenings and then to analyze and report the data. Without fiscal support for hardware, software and staff this work becomes very expensive for local entities.

4. HB 2013 is silent on the relationship between the Early Learning Council and the Youth Development Council. Counties support strong coordination between these two entities.
5. AOC supports the work around redefining the Healthy Start program but the bill refers to contracts with the local commissions on children and families, since they will be sunset in June, 2013, who will be responsible for the Healthy Start contracts?

AOC looks forward to working with legislators to find solutions to these questions. As teammates in statewide transformations we appreciate the leadership and vision of all those involved. If there are any questions regarding assistance or input from the counties, please contact AOC Human Service staff Mark Nystrom.