

To: Oregon House Education Committee  
From: Dana Hepper, Early Learning Director, Children's Institute  
Date: February 10, 2014  
Re: House Bill 4127

Chair Gelser and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony for the public record regarding House Bill 4127. We don't have a position on this legislation. However, we wanted to provide some clarifying comment for the legislative record to ensure the legislation is interpreted accurately in implementation.

First, Children's Institute would like to comment on the legislative language, "A majority of the members of the board are public education professionals who work or have worked, on a regular basis, in a public educational setting... including a provider of early learning services." The pathways for delivering early learning services are varied. Oregon has public Head Start and Oregon Prekindergarten classrooms taught by public employees. However, Oregon also partners with community based providers in early childhood to reach more children. In addition, some early learning services, such as Early Head Start and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, may not be provided in a public educational setting as traditionally conceived, but rather in a child's home or other community space. We hope that this language will be interpreted as inclusively as possible to allow for educators from a variety of settings to not be excluded from potential membership on the board.

Second, Children's Institute would like to comment on the legislative language, "Ensure that four or more members of the board represent the interests of public education from Kindergarten through grade 12." It is our hope that the members of the Oregon Education Investment Board continue to do what they have been doing since being appointed to the board, which is to conceive of their role broadly and represent the interests of children throughout their development.

Thank you.