

March 10, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB321

I am writing to urge you to vote NO AGAINST SB321 that decreases compulsory school age from seven to five years of age.

SB321 would increase costs of running our schools while reducing parents' options for their young children

The proposed bill is based on the understanding that formal or school based early child education increases a child's ability to thrive later in life. However, studies, such as those of Head Start, show that these gains are short lived and last only a few years. Hence, such a mandate would not be fiscally responsible.

Half-day kindergarten is currently offered to every child in Oregon on a voluntary basis. That is sufficient for parents who believe their children will benefit from kindergarten. Making it mandatory takes away the parents' option to seek the best early childhood experience for their children.

Please do NOT support SB321.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Pozdena

Former teacher and parent of two former Beaverton School District students