

March 6, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Early Childhood CARES I am pleased to submit this letter of support of Senate Bill 213 to make Early Learning Hubs permanent. Early Childhood CARES is the early intervention and early childhood special education program for Lane County. We serve children from birth to five years of age who have developmental delays, disabilities and/or sensory impairments. We have been an integral part of the planning and implementation of the Early Learning Alliance from the beginning. As more developmental screenings are completed. We receive more referrals for services. This is a win-win because identifying children early and linking them to needed services is a shared priority between EI/ECSE and Early learning Hubs.

Our community has been fortunate to have one of the first Early Learning Hubs funded in Oregon. The Lane Alliance for Early Learning has only been operating slightly over a year and the list of accomplishments is long!. A few of the most noteworthy accomplishments to date include: the close relationships that have formed between early childhood and the K-12 and work to align these systems; the shared metrics with the CCO has encouraged collaboration and shared work especially around developmental screening and prevention strategies; the leveraging of local resources directed at early learning priorities; and the engagement of many different sectors of our community including the researchers who have advised the Early learning Alliance on metrics and measurement tools for their work.

There is so much more work that must be accomplished to ensure that all children are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond, that all families are stable and attached, and that our services are coordinated into an effective system to meet the needs of children and families. We hope that the legislature will making Early Learning Hubs permanent across the state which will allow us to continue this important work towards achieving Oregon's 40/40/20 goals. We have really just begun.

Sincerely,  
Judy Newman,



Co-director of Early Childhood CARES

