



Cultivating Confident, Creative, Compassionate Leaders

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

March 13, 2015

Dear Chair Sara Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Kali Thorne Ladd, Executive Director of KairosPDX and a member of the Early Learning Council. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 to make the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continues the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

These HUBs are important for a myriad of reasons. The most important reason, in my opinion, is that it provides a more inclusive alternative to the past system to meaningfully engage key stakeholders and children in the community that are historically under-served. This inclusion coupled with what neuroscience tells us about the early years and the critical role quality early learning experiences play for future achievement and prosperity builds a strong case for HUBs. As part of the hub, we are all asked to think beyond the mission and reach of our individual programs to ensure that the children and families in our region who most need services are receiving them. We are accepting collective responsibility for the underserved children and families in our region

If we are to be a better Oregon...if we are to achieve greater equity for all Oregonians, implementing strategic measures to improve system coordination, alignment and access is essential. The hub is creating new partnerships across K-12 schools, early education, health, human services and business areas that have been siloed for too long. This will change the way we currently support young children and families in our region and lead to more effective and efficient services. As an educator and a member of the Early Learning Council, I am excited by what this foundation can mean for early learning in Oregon. I can see that this systemic approach that creates an intentional bridge between policy and practice is exactly what is needed.

I urge you to support SB 213 and this transformation of early learning in Oregon.

Kind regards,

Kali Thorne Ladd

