

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

March 1, 2015

Chair Sara Gelsler, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lilia Caballero, Chair of Hispanic Interagency Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 makes 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.

- The children who have the social/emotional and cognitive skills to thrive in kindergarten, are more likely to thrive as readers, more likely to become graduates and more to be prepared to take on college and career opportunities.
 - We can strengthen the prosperity of our region by investing in our youngest children and their families.
 - Meeting the needs of children and families in our community is an impossible task for any one program or service provider on their own.
 - Our families and communities have a range of needs that needs to be met through a range of solutions. The Hub is building on existing community assets by...
 - The Early Learning Hub is specifically tasked not just with expanding services to reach underserved communities, but providing services in a manner that meets the needs of underserved communities. Hubs are asked to evaluate who is and isn't being served and in many cases re-evaluate the manner in which early learning resources have traditionally been delegated.
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- The Early Learning Hub is an example of the type of partnerships the Hub can catalyze.
 - As a community based organization we have been engaged in this systems work in an authentic manner that allows us to bring our expertise to the table.
 - Through these partnerships we are creating we are better able to serve the children and families we are directly connected to. For example,

- Strengthening early learning through the Hubs will benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support of SB 213.

Sincerely,

Lilia Caballero

Hispanic Interagency Committee