



SB 213: Early Learning Hubs
Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

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Policy

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Chair Sara Gelser, Vice Chair Kruse and Members of the Committee,

I am the chair of Oregon's Early Learning Council. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213 which makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent. Local communities in our state have undertaken significant work to align and coordinate early learning services, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten. SB 213 recognizes this work and supports ongoing effort to build a true early learning system.

We know that the future prosperity of Oregon is reliant upon the future prosperity of the people of Oregon. Our children are our future and our investment in them has to start from birth, and extend to the families and communities in which they grow.

Early Learning Hubs support at-risk and underserved children and families in every region of the state. They are working in good faith to make resources and supports more available, more accessible and more effective. Hubs identify the underserved children in their community, evaluate the needs of those children and families, and then work to ensure that programs and services are working together reach them and meet their needs.

Each Early Learning Hub has engaged community partners and worked with them to create a plan for meeting the needs of children and families in their communities. They have done so with very little resource, have driven thoughtful investments and have built cross-sector partnerships. What started as a "demonstration project" has clearly shown that it is possible to achieve measurable results when communities have a strong goal, a willingness to "own" the work of supporting children and families as a whole (rather than a collection of programs and agencies) and the ability to be held accountable for their collective work.

Through Early Learning Hubs, we have empowered local leaders to build an early learning system across silos, with success of families and young children at the center. I urge you to continue this transformation and support SB 213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Curtis".

Pam Curtis
Early Learning Council Chair