



March 13, 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 Pearl Buck Center Preschool, I am pleased to submit this letter of support of Senate Bill 213 to make Early Learning Hubs permanent.

Our community has firsthand experience with the capacity for change that Early Learning Hubs present. In less than a year, our local Early Learning Hub, the Lane Early Learning Alliance, has maintained a focus on closing our community's achievement gap early by focusing on children and families who stand to benefit from the most coordinated, effective programs and services. The Alliance has demonstrated a commitment to data-driven decision making and outcomes-oriented investments. The Lane Early Learning Alliance is comprised of parents and professionals passionate about making a difference in the lives of children.

The work of Pearl Buck Center Preschool is to support a life-long love of learning for young children and their families. We serve the children of parents who have cognitive difficulties in a tuition free preschool program with wrap around family services. The commitment to outcomes-oriented investments aligns directly with our mission to provide positive outcomes to at-risk children and their families. We believe we are making a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable families in our area. We agree wholeheartedly with the mission of the Lane Early Learning Alliance.

While the Lane Early Learning Alliance has enjoyed early successes and lessons learned, there is 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. Making Early Learning Hubs permanent across the state will allow us to continue this important work towards achieving Oregon's 40/40/20 goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee K. Van Norman".

Renee K. Van Norman, Ph.D.
Preschool Director