

March 12, 2015

To whom it may concern,

For the record, my name is Rhoda Keown, I am a member of the Governance Advisory Committee for the Klamath County. The committee is part of the South Central Oregon Early Learning Hub. I am writing as an independent member of the Governance Advisory Committee.

I absolutely support the vision of the Hub goals, however Klamath County has had only one meeting it is premature to say I am ready to support this becoming a law. There has not been enough time to determine if best practice is being implemented. There must be time to implement, evaluate and possibly adjust the plans that are being discussed. Our community partners gave a warm welcome to the Douglas ESD and have shared many great ideas to prevent duplication of services.

Klamath County is mostly rural and is financially unstable. The unemployment rate is approximately 10%. There is concern that any available money will not be shared equally with Klamath and Lake Counties. The small population does not adequately show the high need for resources and finances to serve our young children.

As a member of the Advisory Committee I want time to observe and evaluate the quality of services and support the Hub will bring to Klamath and Lake Counties. To validate the accuracy of the outcomes will require a minimum of a couple of years. Please do not make this a law until there is time to determine if the set goals and outcomes will meet the needs for Klamath and Lake Counties. It is undetermined if this process will increase the services provided to our fragile unserved families. Early education and wellbeing are the two most important aspects for our children and a stable community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rhoda L Keown', written in black ink.

Rhoda L Keown, Governance Advisory Committee