



NAACP
Eugene ~ Springfield Branch
www.NAACPLanecounty.org

March 11, 2015

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

Chair Sara Gelser and Members of the Committee,

I am the co-Chair of the NAACP of Eugene Springfield (Branch 119) Education Committee and the project manager for a grant from United Way that will help Early Learning Hub providers in Lane County improve outreach efforts to underrepresented families.

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.

I served for many years as an attorney for juveniles and adults caught up in our criminal justice system, and from my representation of thousands of individuals over the years, I learned that what happened to a client in the first five or six years of his or her life had an impact that was hard to overcome. For that – and many other reasons – I urge you to make the Early Learning Hubs permanent. It is only through early intervention that we are able to enhance every Oregonian's ability to become their greatest selves. Support for Early Learning Hubs will ensure that we spend taxpayer funds wisely – it is much less costly to get a child on the right track early than to address deficits later on.

I believe that the Early Learning Hubs enhance our ability to do this through collaborative, systematic services. The Hub elevate early learning as part of the education system. We know that education can significantly change the odds for children and families and starts well before children enter kindergarten.

Strengthening early learning through the Hubs will benefit children, families and our State.

As we mourn the loss of one of the greatest leaders Oregon has ever had, I urge you to honor Dave Frohnmayer's legacy of advocacy for education by supporting SB 213.

Most sincerely,

Rita Radostitz