

SB 213 Early Learning Hubs
Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee
March 12, 2015

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

For the record, I am Sue Herringshaw, Education Manager for Head Start of Harney County. 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.

- A child's brain develops more in the first five years of life than at any other time, creating the foundation for all future learning and development.
- During the first few years of life, 700 new synapses (neural connections) are formed every second. Early learning experiences are focused on a child's learning and development can make a tremendous impact on a child's future.
- The Frontier Hub is drawing upon the experience and expertise of early learning providers and working to amplify our work through cross sector collaborations.
- The Hub is leveraging and coordinating existing programs such as home visiting, Head Start, and relief nurseries to build on the good work of these programs, share lessons learned across service providers, and encourage the reduction of duplicated services in order to provide the most relevant and effective services to families.
- We now have 100% of children receiving developmental screening in our Head Start Program, which is one of the tools we have to get young children and families the support they need to succeed.

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

Sincerely,

Sue Herringshaw
Education Manager
Head Start of Harney County