



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

CHRIS BOICE SUSAN MORGAN TIM FREEMAN

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 • Roseburg, Oregon 97470

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

March 3, 2015

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

For the record, I am Tim Freeman, Early Learning Council and South Central Early Learning Hub board member. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213 which makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent. SB 213 continues the significant work our local communities have undertaken to align and coordinate early learning services, 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. It is a tremendous opportunity and tremendous responsibility to help ensure that the experiences children have during that foundation development set them up for success.

Our families and community have a range of needs that needs to be met through a range of solutions. Our South Central Hub is working across sectors to make sure that our local families and young children are at the center of our work. We are focused on their success, building new relationships and leveraging existing partnerships to meet their needs.

We have always had early learning services in our communities, but we've never been as focused as we are now on how those services and supports build upon one another to meet families where they are and lead to outcomes. Across Douglas, Lake and Klamath counties we are bringing early intervention, the parenting hub, early literacy programs and home visiting among other programs under one umbrella. Coordinating these services for children from birth through 6 years old means that we can break down existing barriers for families and clearly identify needs and gaps in services.

Strategically investing in our community and its youngest members will pay dividends for those children, their families and our region. I urge your support of SB 213.

Sincerely,

Tim Freeman