



SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

Chair Sara Gelser and Members of the Committee,

Chairwoman Gelser and members of the Early Childhood Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 213. PacificSource is an independent, not-for-profit health plan based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare members and are the Coordinated Care Organization in Central Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. Our corporate headquarters are based in Lane County, where we have strong roots in the community. We are pleased to have membership on Early Learning Hub governance boards in both Lane County and in Central Oregon, and enthusiastically urge your support of SB 213. This bill makes the Early Learning Hubs (ELH) 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.

There is voluminous evidence demonstrating the relationship between early childhood experiences, educational attainment and health outcomes over the lifespan. In recognition of this, one of the promising components within the Hub framework is the connection to Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO). We know there is a high degree of overlap between the children and families served through CCO's and those specifically targeted by the Hubs. Currently, CCO's and Hubs are both accountable for metrics around developmental screenings and connecting kids to medical homes. This is a promising early step and fosters the need to work together to coordinate, collaborate and innovate.

Constructing this bridge between large systems is nascent, but extremely important. We believe we are on the right track and we urge your continued support of the Early Learning Hub model, through passage of SB 213.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

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