



The Knowledge Universe Family of Brands

April 9, 2015

To Representative Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on HB 3380 which directs the Early Learning Division to administer a preschool program with uniform standards. Knowledge Universe is the largest private child care provider in the United States with over 1,600 early learning centers nationwide. Our company headquarters is based in Oregon, where we operate 24 KinderCare Learning Centers and 4 Children's Creative Learning Centers. We are committed to providing high quality early education to children of all social and economical circumstances and would like to offer our support for the mixed delivery approach taken by HB 3380, with the -2 amendments.

Knowledge Universe currently partners with 13 states to offer state-funded preschool programs, serving over 4,000 children ages 3 and 4 years of age. In the 20 years of operating state funded preschool, our programs have gained positive experiences in collaborating with state agencies and regional offices.

- We have found that families are committed to the continuity of care community providers can offer to their youngest children and appreciate the integration of state funded preschool within the setting where their children have been learning and growing.
- We acknowledge that state funded preschool programs offer qualified early education teachers options in work environments, while encouraging ongoing professional development and opportunities to increase qualifications.
- We witness the return on investment of child outcomes when state funded preschool programs are created for a targeted population.
- We support high quality standards for the state funded preschool program and believe a commitment to national accreditation and quality rating and improvement systems do provide learning environments where children succeed.

As we support the movement of HB 3380 with the -2 amendments through the committee, we look forward to an ongoing discussion of the establishment of a state funded preschool program for Oregon's children.

Thank you,

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