



DIVERSE IN CULTURE; UNIFIED IN MISSION

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April 9, 2015

Mr. Richard Donovan
Committee Administrator
House Education Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Donovan,

The Woodburn School District is writing in support of amended House Bill 3380, which is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow in the House Education Committee. We respectfully request that you share this letter with committee members prior to the hearing.

HB 3380 sets common, high-quality standards for preschool programs, including Head Start, community-based preschools and those in K-12 schools. It will allow Oregon to reach more low-income children in a variety of settings and prevent the achievement gap before it begins.

High-quality preschool works. Providing additional resources for such programs would close the opportunity gap and get children ready for kindergarten and on track for 3rd grade success. That's why we also request that the Legislature invest \$30 million in additional funding during the 2015-2017 biennium to provide high-quality preschool to more low-income children.

The Oregon Head Start Association, the Children's Institute, and the Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education have been working collaboratively for months to craft this legislation. Support and funding for HB 3380 is endorsed by more than 30 organizations statewide because it would benefit Oregon's children.

We are proud to lend our support for legislation that will improve Oregon preschool and put children on track for success. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chuck Ransom
Superintendent