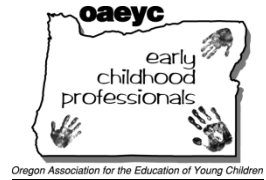


OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children



April 30, 2015

Co-Chairs Senator Hass and Representative Barnhart and members of the committee:
Joint Committee on Tax Credits

Regarding: HB 2113A, SB 49 and SB 212

OregonAEYC represents over 850 early childhood care and education professionals working with children from birth through age 8. Many of our members have received the benefit of the Education Awards provided by the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. They have put those \$100, \$250 or \$500 checks right to work in providing for their families or improving their programs.

When the Education Awards first started, I was attending an Early Childhood Conference at La Grande Middle School. Two child care providers spoke of how the Education Award they had recently received had impacted their program. One shared that she had submitted her Associate Degree completion and received her Step 9 on The Oregon Registry. With that Step she also received an Education Award of \$500. She said she was trying to decide how best to use it to support her Family Child Care program. Then her water heater broke and had to be immediately replaced so that she could remain open. She said the \$500 was a blessing as she didn't have the reserve funds otherwise. The other provider was excited that she was going to be able to use her \$500 for a drip irrigation system and other improvements for her outdoor play area making it easier to maintain and a better environment for the children in her care. In both cases the dollars went right back into the local economy.

Even with the increase to the cap that is included in SB 212, the \$5 million remains a modest amount in the State's Budget. It also provides a dedicated fund where Oregonians can make a voluntary contribution to support quality child care. By providing a dedicated fund and revenue stream, you can keep the focus on quality improvements that go directly into the hands of those working with our youngest children every day.

Although HB 2113A and SB 49 would also maintain this program, we urge your support of SB 212 as the best vehicle for continuing this important support into the future.

Sincerely,

Merrily Haas
Executive Director

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Oregon AEYC advocates for high quality early childhood programs for every young child and strives to meet the professional development needs of the diverse early childhood community.