



DATE: June 9, 2015

TO: Chair Roblan and Members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Iris Maria Chavez, Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children Oregon

RE: SB 215 Oregon Education Investment Board

Senator Roblan, and members of the committee, my name is Iris Maria Chavez and I am the government affairs director with Stand for Children Oregon. I would like to first thank Senator Roblan for his commitment to convening the OEIB work group to find a path forward that most interested stakeholders can get behind. I would also like to thank Senator Kruse and Representatives Johnson, Doherty, Taylor and Hack for their interest and commitment of time to this effort.

At Stand for Children, our members across the state, work tirelessly to ensure that all students in their districts have access to high quality educational opportunities. It's my job to help scale their work up to ensure that all students in the *state* have access to high quality educational opportunities and in doing that, that parents and community advocates have access to the systems and institutions that make that access possible.

We believe that the Oregon Education Investment Board has played a meaningful role in raising up a number of issues that affect students, such as the importance of early literacy for success and ensuring that state policies are implemented equitably. It has also been pivotal in ensuring that organizations and individuals who represent students and the workforce have had the ability to engage in the process of identifying pressure points, collaborating on solutions and working towards implementation.

Under SB 215, the advisory board function of the Oregon Education Investment Board will dissolve and be solely a staffed agency, tasked with many of the same efforts as it has previously: ensuring implementation of policies/programs for transitions throughout the P-20 system, ensuring an equity focus/lens is applied to the previous work, and ensuring that stakeholders external to the education system are engaged in the previous two pieces of work.

Over the next several months the 215 work group will continue to convene, and we advise that the group better include advocates for students, practitioners, and policy experts to determine how best to structure a P-20 agency to accomplish the above work. In addition, as Governor Brown considers the Executive Order that will put in place a transitional advisory board (or council) we recommend that this body, while including individuals from the governing bodies of the P-20 systems agencies, also include representatives from outside the "systems," in order to ensure that stakeholder collaboration and the needs of students groups represented within the Equity Lens are represented.