



1 February 2016

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair  
Members of the House Education Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Doherty and Representatives,

Children First for Oregon advocates for long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that keep children healthy and safe and strengthen families. We write in support of HB 4050 because we understand the very real costs of summer learning loss, especially for children in low-income families. In Oregon, 26% of women with young children work in low-wage jobs. Given that summer learning loss is a factor in 2/3 of the achievement gap between high- and low-income children, the sooner we address this issue, the brighter the future of our state will be.

Additionally, you have, or soon will have, a copy of the 2016 Children's Agenda produced by United for Kids. United for Kids participants share a commitment to public policy changes and shared investments that benefit the health, safety, economic security and education of Oregon's children. Nine organizations belonging to United for Kids support this bill, which will develop recommendations for strategies to help all of our children to succeed academically.

We ask you to create the Policy Advisory Committee on Summer Learning through HB 4050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonia Hunt", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tonia Hunt  
Executive Director