

Dear Chair Livley, Vice Chairs Hack and Piluso and members of this trusted committee;

My name is Angie Lowe, I am the owner of Tiny Hands Specialized Child Care a fully inclusive Certified Family child care program located in Stayton, and a proud Preschool Promise provider with twenty years' experience, with an emphasis on working with children and families with special needs. My fully inclusive program allows all children access to community based programs, such as preschool promise regardless of needs, disabilities, medical needs or behaviors, while allowing families to continue working. We work with outside agencies to ensure that each child is receiving the highest quality of care and education. I just learned, yesterday, that I am now a step 9 on the Oregon Registry, the professional development program for child care providers run through Portland State University and am just shy of twenty hours in achieving my 9.5. I am currently under review for a 5 star rating on Spark, formally known as QRIS. All that I needed to complete the Spark rating review process of my portfolio was to receive my Step 9 status from PSU. I am also a member of AFSCME local 132, Child Care Providers Together. I am here today to SUPPORT HB 2013 and the changes it will make to Preschool Promise program in regards to the need for the head teacher to hold a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education.

I take great pride in my fully inclusive program and my ability to have a high quality program that includes myself and my staff's current level of education. Both of my staff are working on their step 7 in the Oregon registry. I am currently enrolled in Ashworth College in their BA program for early Childhood Education. The current amount of hours needed to run my quality Child Care, along with the demands of Preschool Promise have left me with very little time. I believe that college education is Not the only important attribute that makes a program quality, knowledge and trainings do. College level classes are not easily implemented into our daily program needs, community based trainings are generated towards the daily needs of our child care business and are easily transitioned from our trainings into our program which directly effects the children. Typical trainings are approximately three hours and are directed towards child care, where I can spend upwards of fifty hours in just one of my college classes and NOT gain the amount of knowledge that I can from a community based class. I believe that community based trainings are more effective and would allow our time to be spent working with our children in our business which would produce a higher quality and more effective program.

Despite my time constraints, I am very glad to be part of the Preschool program and I am grateful to have this opportunity to speak about the needs of our early learning work force. Child care providers work long, hard hours to achieve our quality programs and we are asking for the Early Learning Division study on wages and professional development include all of child care and not be limited to preschools. Increasing the wages of all child care, will continue to increase the quality and access for ALL children currently in care or in need of early learning experiences. We ask for these wage increases to continue our education that most of us pay out of our own pockets, to continue to provide nutritious hot meals to children that may not have one otherwise. I am asking that our wages be increased so that ALL children can access a High Quality Child Care Programs and have continued support for families that rely on Preschool Promise.

I also would like to close with one last statement a BA in early childhood education does not equal a high quality program, nor does it provide a safe and loving environment in which children grow or thrive in. A

highly trained provider that is paid appropriately does. Higher wages allow for less employee turn around which builds a stable foundation for love and trust in children while building relationships with families and the community.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Chair, Vice Chairs and members of the committee today as we all move forward with HB 2013 and invest in the programs that build foundations for our children.

Angie Lowe
Tiny Hands Specialized Child Care
Stayton, OR