



Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee on Ways And Means Subcommittee on Education,

The Early Learning Washington County Operations Committee is comprised of over 30 community based organizations, school districts, government programs, and other community providers. While our focus may be on a younger demographic, many of our organizations also serve families and youth. As the chair and designated representative of this committee, I am writing in support of Washington County's Juvenile Crime Prevention strategy, "Middle School Alternative Program".

Prevention is a well-worn strategy amongst early childhood programming, and one that has proven its investment repeatedly. Preventative strategies often show exponential returns on investment that are unmatched by the intensive needs of rehabilitation or intervention programming. The Middle School Alternative Program is a proven preventative strategy that serves to keep children from being involved with our justice system while supporting the whole family. The ELWC Operations Committee firmly believes in the value of this approach.

When discussing specific outcomes of the program, evidence shows substantial and meaningful change by both reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. While it is often difficult to prove the outcomes of prevention, the Middle School Alternative Program provides some results. In the most recent program assessment, 74% of program enrollees did not have a criminal referral in the 12 months following services.

Given our collective experience working with children, youth and families, ELWC Operations Committee sees a definitive need for this program in our community. We request that the committee fund Washington County's Juvenile Crime Prevention strategy at current service levels.

Sincerely,

Peggy Freund, Ph.D.
ELWC Operations Chair

*A partnership between
United Way of the
Columbia-Willamette &
Washington County Health
and Human Services*



United Way of the
Columbia-Willamette



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Early Learning Washington County Operation Committee Membership:

- Beth Dasher, Program Manager, Healthy Families of Washington County, Community Action
- Brenda Lewis, Executive Administrative for K-8 Title Programs, Beaverton School District
- Colette Brown, Managing Director, Providence Wee Care
- Erin Sewell, Program Director, Lifeworks NW
- Patrick Shuckerow, Instruction and Data Coordinator, Sherwood School District
- Jane Hogue, Director of Child Development, Community Action
- Judy Harris, Executive Director, Youth Contact
- Karen Henkemeyer, CCR&R Program Manager, Community Action
- LaRue Williams, Head Start Program Director, Oregon Child Development Coalition
- Margie MacLeod, Director of Child and Family Services, Morrison Center
- Marylee Stahl, Program Director-Prevention Services, Lifeworks NW
- Olga Acuña, Director of Federal Programs & Parent and Community Engagement, Hillsboro School District
- Patricia Alvarado, Parent Coordinator, Adelante Mujeres
- Peggy Freund, Coordinator, NW Regional Educational Service District
- Bryce Kozla, Youth Services Librarian, Washington County Cooperative Library
- Susan Pinnock, Community Health Nursing Supervisor, Washington County Public Health
- Susan Salkield, Director of Special Projects, Tigard-Tualatin School District
- Angela Day, Tigard DHS
- Tim Larkin, Gaston Elementary School Principal, Gaston School District
- Darla Waite-Larkin, Gaston Elementary
- Mariela Mireles, Forest Grove School District
- Maureen Seferovich, Washington County HHS
- Peg King, Health Share
- Kristina Kurtz, Tigard Tualatin School District

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