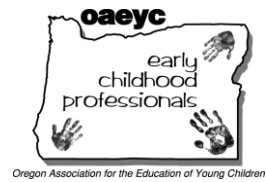


OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

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

PO Box 60, Gladstone, OR 97027



March 15, 2017

To: Ways & Means Joint Subcommittee on Education
Co-chair, Senator Rod Monroe
Co-chair, Representative Barbara Smith Warner

Re: SB 5516 Department of Education, Budget for Early Learning - SUPPORT

The Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) is a statewide organization with over 900 members who work with children from birth through age 8 and their families in a variety of settings including child care centers, family child care, Head Start, part day preschools, kindergarten and primary classrooms as well as college and university early childhood programs. We are committed to both the well-being of young children and the on-going professional development of our members and all those working in early childhood education.

OAEYC supports the Early Learning Grant-in-Aid programs as well as the budget for the Early Learning Division as contained in SB 5516. Research has shown that wise investments in the early years pays off in greater success in school and life. Oregon has made wise investments in the past in our Oregon Head Start Pre-Kindergarten Program, in professional development supports for early childhood educators, our home-visiting programs and most recently in Early Learning Hubs and Preschool Promise. We need to continue to fund those programs at an adequate level including the roll up for Preschool Promise to full biennium funding. Expanded investments in professional development for early childhood educators will support additional training and education for the current workforce to achieve professional standards of quality and to increase opportunities for professional advancement for those representing the cultural diversity of the young children of this state.

Although it is regrettable that funds from the Employment Related Day Care program must be used to comply with increased health and safety requirements, we must comply if we are to continue to receive the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds. We urge you to support the base funding outlined in SB 5516.

Sincerely,

Merrily S. Haas

Merrily Haas
Executive Director

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OregonAEYC promotes high-quality early learning for **all** children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. **Our Vision** is that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.