

From: Sunny Spicer
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Early Education
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Eric Christopher Dames

President of Board of Directors

Kid Time Children's Museum and Preschool

106 N. Central Avenue

Medford, OR 97501

Ways & Means Education Subcommittee

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee members:

I am writing to urge you to continue supporting Oregon's strong early childhood intervention and educational programs. The cost to our Oregon communities by not making early childhood education a priority is immeasurable.

As a former county prosecutor, I have seen first hand the consequences that poverty, substance abuse and lack of education have on the members of our community and to society as a whole. A strong public focus on early education pays dividends later on and allows children to grow up and be successful, to be emotionally fulfilled and have empathy for others. Early education imprints a positive foundation on an individual and allows for a lifetime of success.

As the President of the Board of Directors for Kid Time Children's Museum and Preschool, I have seen the actual impact that programs like Preschool Promise have on Jackson County's most vulnerable children. Children who would otherwise be relegated to continuing in a cycle of dependence, are instead given fundamentals for success. An early childhood educational foundation creates academic success in Kindergarten and beyond; causes children to become good citizens to their neighbor, good stewards of their community, helps develop a positive self-image where they

are curious and excited to learn. Preschool Promise has a positive impact on the families it touches. That positive impact will also be felt a decade from now when those children become young adults in Jackson County and counties around Oregon.

Investing in early intervention and education programs is an investment decision that Oregon cannot afford not to make. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Eric Christopher Dames

Board President

Kid Time Children's Museum and Preschool

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Sunny Spicer

Executive Director

Kid Time Discovery Experience

106 N Central Ave

Medford, OR 97501

www.kid-time.org

541-772-9922

541-944-6206 mobile

