

April 13, 2017

2341 NW Quimby St.  
Portland, OR 97210

Representative John Lively  
Representative Carla Piluso  
Representative Cedric Hayden  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer  
Representative David Brock Smith

Representative Jodi Hack  
Representative Janelle Bynum  
Representative John Huffman  
Representative Sheri Malstrom

Subject: **HB 3069**

[via email to [hecfs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hecfs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)]

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood & Family Supports,

My name is Robert Tate, and my family has been resident in Portland, OR since 2015. I joined Social Venture Partners Portland as a Partner, and since then, I have been providing voluntary leadership to Latino Network. My primary focus is their culturally-specific Early Childhood Education program called Juntos Apprendemos. Prior to this, I lived and worked at Cincinnati, Ohio for the Procter & Gamble Company. You may be aware that Cincinnati recently adopted new provisions supporting early childhood education as the best opportunity to drive community well-being and economic development. The supporting data were incontrovertible, and even in the tough economic and political environment, this measure passed convincingly last November.

I am excited that Oregon stands ready to push forward, and to make history in support of similar objectives, and I write today to support HB 3069, creating the Early Learning Equity Fund. It is essential to move forward, and create a strong foundation for the communities of tomorrow:

Our state population is changing rapidly. Recently, more than 35% of babies born in 2014 are children of color, and in several Oregon counties, a majority of children under 5 are children of color. State funding for early learning has not kept pace with these changes. As Oregon becomes more diverse, it's imperative that the State invest in culturally-specific programs that lead to better outcomes for children of color.

Expanded state funding for important early learning programs such as Head Start, Oregon Promise, Latino Network 'Juntos Apprendemos', and the early learning hubs is critical. There is a real and urgent opportunity to strengthen the OR portfolio of early learning services by creating the Early Learning Equity Fund to support culturally specific early learning and parent education services. This fund, created by HB 3069, will provide grants to culturally specific organizations with a successful track record of reaching, retaining and supporting children of color and their families. This investment will be an important starting point to reach more families left behind by existing programming.

We are privileged to live in Portland and this state, and to enjoy the wonders of this supportive community. This privilege requires us to plan and support future generations, of all backgrounds, who will further grow the progressive spirit and positive diversity in this community. Thank you for HB 3069, and I wholeheartedly request your support for its advancement. Please contact me further if I can be helpful.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Tate  
(513) 368-2257