

April 14, 2017

Representative John Lively
Representative Jodi Hack
Representative Carla Piluso
Representative Janelle Bynum
Representative Cedric Hayden
Representative John Huffman
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Representative Sheri Malstrom
Representative David Brock Smith

RE: HB 3069, submitted via email to hecfs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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

My name is Larry Fox and I am a partner with Social Venture Partners Portland.

I am writing today to support HB 3069, creating the Early Learning Equity Fund.

We know four things.

- Our children are our future.
- The proportion of children of color is growing rapidly and in some counties will soon be a majority.
- Meeting the needs of all children means meeting the needs of these children.
- “One size fits all” does not meet those needs.

Times are changing rapidly. For all its virtues and good intentions, state funding has not kept pace with demographic changes, real needs, or effective policy. The Early Learning Equity fund created by HB 3069 would provide grants to culturally specific organizations with a track record of reaching, retaining and supporting children of color and their families. This investment would be an important *starting point* to reaching more families who are currently left behind by existing programming. The sooner we start addressing this issue in earnest, the easier and more cost effective it will be to get on top of it over time.

My organization, Social Venture Partners, brings business and organizational acumen to organizations like Latino Network, Adelante Mujeres, NAYA, and Kairos PDX. We help these enlightened, hardworking, and dedicated groups reach as many

people as possible through strong culturally specific work. We whole-heartedly support HB 3069 because the efforts of organizations like ours and those we work with cannot alone address the problem.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Larry Fox
Social Venture Partners, Portland