

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

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

I am Barbara Francis a partner and member of the Board of Directors at Social Venture Partners Portland. SVP is deeply committed to our goal of ensuring that all children in the Portland Metro area enter kindergarten with a foundation for learning and success. We focus on kids who are "at risk". Therefore HB 3069 is of great concern to us.

It is time that we level the chances for success for all children, especially now as our community becomes more and more diverse and the opportunities for children become become more and more limited. Many children of color and those in poverty have few chances to be prepared for kindergarten. We know that kindergarten is the new benchmark for students....they must have a successful experience to enhance their chances to graduate high school. Our state needs to invest in culturally specific programs to allow more children to achieve success. We have proven programs that reach children at risk. This bill would allow these strong programs to reach more children and families who are in need, in need now.

I support this bill because of my deep committee to equality, education and children.

Thank you,
Barbara Francis
SVP Portland Board of Directors