



**SOCIAL VENTURE  
PARTNERS**

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April 17, 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](mailto:hecfs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

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

I am writing on behalf of Social Venture Partners Portland (SVP) in support of HB 3069, creating the Early Learning Equity Fund. SVP is a multi-generational community of Oregon professionals engaged in venture philanthropy—we invest financial, human and social capital to solve pressing community problems. Our current ten-year goal is to ensure that *all children in the Portland metro area enter kindergarten with the foundation for learning and life success.*

Oregon's population is changing rapidly – more than 35% of babies born in 2014 are children of color, and in several Oregon counties, a majority of children under five years of age 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 our 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, Preschool Promise, and the Early Learning Hubs is critical. The Early Learning Equity Fund would further strengthen the state's portfolio of services for culturally specific early learning and parent education services. The Early Learning Equity fund created by HB 3069 would provide grants to culturally specific programs with a track record of reaching, retaining and supporting children of color and their families. This investment would be an important starting point for reaching more families who need effective, culturally relevant services to support the success of their children.

Our Partners/donors invest their money and expertise in organizations successfully serving their communities, such as Latino Network, KairosPDX, the Native American Youth & Family Association, and the Black Parent Initiative. Philanthropy in Oregon has provided the "seed funding" to test and prove the efficacy of their promising programs so that your public investment to reach greater scale can be made with confidence. We urge your support of the Early Learning Equity Fund to provide greater opportunity and prosperity for Oregon's most underserved families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Holloway'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Mark Holloway