

Testimony to the Legislature on HB 4066-Early Childhood Equity Fund

Good afternoon chair and committee members: My name is Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo, I am the Executive Director, Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality, 3850 Portland Rd. NE, Salem OR 97301, 503-949-8062

The Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality has worked for 18 years on culturally specific programs to increase education outcomes for Latino children from Spanish speaking immigrant families.

Most of our programs are unique, and most are created by us with the help of consultants, teachers and other educators.

They are called "Promising Practice."

Promising Practice was what we were praised for by Governor Kitzhauber, Rob Saxton, Rudy Crew, Nancy Golden, Salem Noor and others in ODE.

Promising Practice was what we were assured would be a priority for the Early Learning Council. But that has not materialized. Instead, we have only been able to get small contracts with the Early Learning Hub and Salem Keizer schools ONLY for Evidence Based Parenting Programs.

That leaves out the most important programming we do: PARENT LED programs in which 20 eager Spanish speaking moms and dads come to classes for 10 weeks in which they learn to teach their child literacy and reading skills to catch up with their white peers in Kinder readiness, First Grade and Second Grade.

We see huge success! Moms and Dads are thrilled to be able to help their children succeed. Children are catching up and moving toward third grade reading benchmarks at a much faster pace than their Latino peers not in the programs.

~~These programs are:~~ *our programs:*

Apreniendo Avanzamos: Learning Together we Advance, a Parent Led Preschool that combines parenting, and preschool activities with each parent and their own child. Right now, because of lack of funding, we can only do 10 week sessions, with all parents asking for more.

We are considered the best recruiters in Salem and parents flock to all of our classes.

Helping parents learn the skills of teaching at home, truly becoming effective "parents as teachers" is the most effective way to increase Oregon's education outcomes.

Finally, a bill has been proposed for organizations like ours: culturally specific, led by the communities affected.

And we have a longitudinal study coming with ECONorthwest that will finally prove that our Promising Practice works!!!

Thank you for your time