



TO: House Education Committee  
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, East Multnomah County Schools  
DATE: March 4, 2019  
RE: HB 2897

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Stacy Michaelson and I represent the following school districts: Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, and Reynolds, as well as Multnomah Education Service District.

I submit this testimony in support of HB 2897. My clients are very supportive of an improved early learning landscape in our state, recognizing the impact that quality preschool can have upon kindergarten readiness. It sets a solid foundation for students to build upon as they enter the primary grades. Increasing access for all students and families can help mitigate some of the learning gaps in our system.

The schools in East Multnomah County serve a diverse population of students and are committed to keeping equity front-and-center in their work. We see HB 2897 as an opportunity to address the current inequity that is the starting line from which students begin their journey through our K-12 system. As we have already-strained school budgets, we appreciate the support for working with community-based organizations included in this bill. We are fortunate in Multnomah County to have so many culturally-specific partners that stand ready to assist in the implementation of HB 2897.

We see HB 2897 as an opportunity to help level the playing field for all students entering our kindergarten classrooms and to leverage shared resources with our community partners. We therefore ask for your support of HB 2897.

Thank you.

Stacy Michaelson

**Superintendent** *Sam Breyer*

**Board of Directors** *Jessica Arzate* ♦ *Mary Botkin* ♦ *Kristin Cornuelle* ♦ *Siobhan Burke* ♦ *Michael Durrow* ♦ *Susie Jones* ♦ *Helen Ying*

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