



March 4, 2019

Honorable Margaret Doherty, Chair
Honorable Theresa Alonso-Leon, Vice Chair
Honorable Cheri Helt, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

I'm writing on behalf of the Oregon Business Council (OBC) in support of HB 2897, which will create the Early Childhood Equity Fund with \$20 million in initial funding. OBC joins many others in our belief that access to high-quality, culturally-specific early learning environments is critical to reducing disparities and creating improved education outcomes.

More than ever before, education attainment determines the life prospects of individuals, the vitality of our communities, and the health of our state's economy. Oregon's opportunity gap has persisted too long. Investing in culturally-specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs that honor a child's assets and cultural and linguistic needs will put children on a path to kindergarten readiness and future success in school and life.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Wyse", is written in a cursive style.

Duncan Wyse
President
Oregon Business Council