

March 4, 2019

Re: HB 2897 – Early Childhood Equity Fund

Chair Doherty and Representatives,

Children First for Oregon represents the interests of Oregon’s almost 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive.

Tens of thousands of Oregon children zero to five who would benefit from quality early childhood programs do not have access to them. For a system to be considered effective, it must be designed to reach culturally specific populations that are typically underserved in existing programs.

The growing diversity of Oregon’s children demonstrate Oregon’s diverse future. More than one-third of Oregon’s newborns are children of color, with that percentage expected to grow. By fully funding the **Early Childhood Equity Fund** as described in HB 2897, we will be building a system that can serve many more future Oregonians.

Children First for Oregon urges your support for HB 2897.

Sincerely,

James Barta
Strategic Director

Together we can build an Oregon where all children thrive.