

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to provide comment to the Joint Committee on Student Success for the public hearing on Thursday, April 11 regarding House Bill 2019.

I was glad to see that your committee has approved roughly \$400 million in new investments in early childhood programs and services. Investing in early childhood reduces inequality, expands young minds, and sets children on the path to success. In my 9 years working with youth I have never seen more kind, intelligent, determined and resilient children. I stand for early childhood education because it is NEVER too early to educate a child. Education is the one thing that cannot be taken from you. With your support we can change the future because our children are the future. The earlier education begins, the more love, compassion and prosperity begins to flow.

The Chicas program in specific is my DREAM. I am a part of this team, and my heart is with my non-profit Adelante Mujeres because we see the change and we see the importance of all of this to really make a change through the work that we do.

I am Chicas. I stand with early childhood education.

Sincerely,
Carmen Walsh
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