

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.

I'd also like you to support home visiting and parenting education. Families are they key to healthy children. If I knew what I learn in my early childhood classes now when my son was born, he's be so much more resilient. These programs critically support families at risk and families in rural areas, like where I work at Kings Valley Charter School, who tend to have less support networks.

I've recently completed my Infant Toddler Mental Health Certificate from Portland State University, where I learned the critical value of these programs. I'd like to add both to my role as preschool teacher at the charter school. I find that most social and emotional challenges can be addressed and overcome with whole family services. Thank you for listening. If you're interested in hearing about some very specific examples about what families in your district need, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Thank you for your dedication to Oregon's children

Nina Petrovich

Sincerely,
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