

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.

The committee's recommendation for roughly \$400 million in new investments in early childhood is historic. Oregon is in an early childhood crisis, and the time is now for us to invest big in the collected solutions that work: child care, early learning, and partnerships with families!

I've personally witnessed the impact early intervention services has on children and families. Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education program numbers are increasing exponentially, and the current funding provided to these programs cannot keep up with the need for services. Please seriously consider immediate increases to the budget for EI/ECSE.

Sincerely,

Kim Lyon

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