

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.

How can we conceive of building a future of healthy community, if not by investing in the foundational years of human development??? It is that simple.

Thanks,
Merri

Sincerely,
Merri Whipps
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