

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.

Not enough young children in Oregon get the early care and education they need during the critical first five years. Furthermore, the cost for working families to access care, particularly infant care, pushes many into walking a fine line with few resources for any emergencies that may arise. Early learning professionals, like many teachers, are underpaid for the important work they do with one of our most valuable resources. I'm glad the committee has voted on \$400 million in new investments in early childhood programs and services. I encourage full funding of the Early Childhood Coalition's package. This is an important start to closing a gap that is ever widening.

Sincerely,
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