

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.

Please do not forget the babies! The earliest years offer our greatest opportunity for parents, medical providers, and specialists to support healthy brain development and ensure safe environments. Please go upstream to engage with parents when their babies are newborns by investing in home visiting programs (Family Connects and Healthy Families Oregon) and parent-child attachment programs (Reach Out & Read).

Thank you for your service to Oregon and responsiveness to children's advocates such as myself.

Julie Young, MSW  
Board member, the Children's Institute

Sincerely,  
Julie Young  
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