

## **Testimony EI/ECSE April 11, 2019- HB 2019**

Chairs - Roblan and Smith Warner and members of the Joint Committee on Student Success.

My name is Judy Newman and I am the Director of Early Childhood CARES, the EI/ECSE Program for Lane County and also one of the founding members of the Lane County Early Learning Hub and on the Eugene 4J School Board.

I want to thank you for this very ambitious proposal to significantly increase education funding for early learning and K-12. You targeted the funds in a very thoughtful and proactive way.

I especially want to express my deep gratitude for the proposal to fully fund early intervention and early childhood special education which has been significantly underfunded for years- with only 29% of the 15,000 eligible children receiving adequate service levels overall and only 2.2% of the highest needs children receiving adequate service levels.

As you know Early intervention and Early Childhood Special Education programs provide critical services and supports to children from birth to school age with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

Services are in EVERY community in Oregon so the increased funding will have a positive impact across the state.

EI/ECSE programs are an integral part of early learning systems in EVERY community. Investments in other early learning programs and supports expand our community's ability to collaborate so we can get the right services in the right dosages to the right children and families- so they enter school ready to learn.

Early Learning hubs do the important and challenging cross sector work of aligning health, social services, education and housing so we are all aimed at improving outcomes for all young children in our county.

For example In Lane County, over 20% of the children enrolled in our  
Preschool Promise Classrooms are on IFSPS and supported by EI/ECSE  
programs so they can be successful and make progress in inclusive  
settings with typical peers.

Again – Thank you for your leadership in taking this huge step forward for  
Oregon’s children and youth. I support HB 2019