

March 25, 2021

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain  
Education Subcommittee

My name is Eva Pignotti, and I am the Head Start & Early Head Start Director at Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA). Our program serves 885 children ages birth to five years, in Marion and Polk Counties. I am writing to express my support for full funding for Early Learning Hubs in the 2021-2023 budget.

Our partnership with the Marion Polk Early Learning Hub (MPELH) provides collaborative opportunities for programs serving children and families. MPELH coordinates joint outreach and recruitment, professional development, and identification of gaps in services through partnerships with agencies such as MWVCAA, other early learning providers, the Early Learning Division, Oregon Health Authority and school districts including provides of early intervention services.

The role of the Hubs in building connections between pre-school providers and school districts contributes to children's kindergarten readiness, and smooth transitions between pre-school and kindergarten. Joint training opportunities and cohort development to include kindergarten teachers alongside pre-school teachers allows for meaningful engagement that will help to ensure each child's success.

I urge your support for full funding of the Early Learning Hubs. Thank you.

Respectfully,

*Eva Pignotti*

Eva Pignotti  
Head Start & Early Head Start Director  
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency