



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 23, 2021

TO: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, and members of the
Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

FROM: Ellen Stevenson, MD, MPH
Oregon Pediatric Society Member
American Academy of Pediatrics Early Childhood Champion

SUBJECT: Support for SB5513

My name is Ellen Stevenson, and I am writing to request your support for SB 5513 on behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS). OPS is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our membership is committed to improving and protecting the health and well-being of all children in Oregon, as well as those who care for them. OPS partners with the Oregon Early Childhood Coalition and Our Children Oregon in backing investments in proven programs and services that support the healthy development of the youngest Oregonians.

Pediatricians know and see that whatever happens during the first few years of life sets the stage for the rest of a child's life. It is our responsibility to give children the opportunity to reach their full potential. We need to do more to support children in the years before they start kindergarten.

Together with the Early Childhood Coalition, we are advocating for:

- Funding the "Current Service Level" for all Early Childhood programs (including Early Learning Hubs).
- In addition, we are advocating for a \$127 million investment to increase access to inclusive, culturally specific and relevant, developmentally appropriate early childhood programs:
 - Progress to prevent and eliminate suspension and expulsion with \$5.8 million to support early childhood providers to reduce bias and enhance skill to serve all children.
 - Begin the process to create a Tribal Early Learning Hub with a \$900,000 planning fund.



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- Serve an additional 7,000 children with a \$106M investment in preschool and early learning (\$35.8M for Oregon Pre-Kindergarten, \$64.1M for Preschool Promise, and \$3.4M for the Equity Fund)
- Achieve wage parity for Relief Nurseries with \$4.8M to better serve the 3,500 children enrolled.
- Expand Healthy Families Oregon with \$10M to serve more eligible families and make critical program improvements.
- Expand the evidence-based Reach Out and Read program to medical clinics serving majority BIPOC and low-income families with \$75,000 to support book access and reading.
- Increase parenting education programs that increase connection and support critical for families to thrive with \$2M.

With your support of these programs, we can foster early learning, social and emotional growth, increase school readiness, close the achievement gap, and open the doors of opportunity to all of Oregon's children.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. OPS urges you to support SB 5513.