



February 10, 2021

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon, Chair
House Education Committee
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Opposition to portions of HB 3073

Dear Representative Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee:

The eight Oregon Education Service Districts (ESDs) and one school district which hold contracts with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for early intervention/early childhood special education services (EI/ECSE) are, in principle, opposed to two sections of the proposed House Bill 3073. Specifically, we have serious reservations about the following two sections of the bill:

Section 35 (1)(a) (page 27): In accordance with rules [adopted by] of the State Board of Education **adopted in consultation with the Early Learning Council**, the Superintendent of Public Instruction [in collaboration] **shall collaborate** with the Early Learning [Council shall] **System Director** to develop and administer a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency program of early childhood special education and early intervention services for [preschool] children with [disabilities] **a disability**.

Section 73 (1) (c) (page 73): **Recommendations to strengthen the alignment of the early childhood special education and early intervention services within the statewide early learning system, including any recommended changes to governance, policymaking, or other oversight of the system.**

Early Childhood Special Education services are provided under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This requires an alignment between the EI/ECSE providers and K-12 education. ESDs are in a unique position to provide such alignment, coordination, and communication. Further, we have developed a streamlined system that works very well in connecting ODE with local school districts to meet EI/ECSE student, staff, and program needs.

We believe that ODE has the necessary special education expertise to maintain the existing connection with contractors and to provide guidance and support at the state level for the effective administration of the program. We trust ODE to budget and allocate necessary

program funding from various sources, to be both proactive and responsive in rulemaking decisions, and to understand and monitor the necessary compliance aspects of the program.

We urge careful consideration of the two identified sections of the proposed HB 3073 to ensure that there are no unintended consequences for EI/ECSE programs should the bill ultimately become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Peterson".

Gary Peterson

Executive Director