

My name is Mackenzie Weintraub and I am an early childhood education consultant and the mother of a 3 and 6 year-old. I am writing today to urge the passage of SB 236. In my years as a preschool teacher, administrator, and consultant, I have seen disproportionate discipline play out and negatively impact the lives of preschoolers and their families. We must do better to address the high rates of suspension and expulsion, especially for BIPOC children and children with disabilities. Educators and programs are doing their best, but are struggling to meet the needs of all children. I know this bill will provide the right coaching supports for teachers and providers. In my current role I am a coach and have walked side by side with teachers who are struggling to meet children's needs. When teachers are able to collaboratively partner with a coach and receive ongoing support while they learn new strategies and skills, they are able to thrive and do well by children. I am proud of this bill and the work of Black Child Development PDX and I hope you will put this bill to a vote and pass it. We owe it to our children, families, and educators to do better by supporting educators and keeping children in preschool! Thank you.