



Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub
Clackamas Early Learning Hub
Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties
Early Learning Multnomah
Early Learning Washington County

Eastern Oregon Community Based Services Hub
Four Rivers Early Learning Hub

Frontier Early Learning Hub
Lane Early Learning Alliance
Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub
Northwest Early Learning Hub
South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub
South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub
Southern Oregon Early Learning Services
Yamhill Early Learning Hub

February 23, 2021

Members of the House Education Committee:

Please accept this letter as support for Section 1 of the -1 amendment to **SB 2166** which seeks to eliminate the expulsion and suspension of children ages 0-5 from early care and education programs.

Research shows that children are expelled or suspended from early childhood settings, such as preschool. It also shows that those who are removed from these programs are disproportionately Black, Native, and children with disabilities. Preschool has the highest expulsion and suspension rates of any age. In addition, many of these children experience removal repeatedly, thus running the risk of not getting the benefits of early learning programs and the needed social emotional/mental supports needed for their growth and development.

The proposed language in SB 2166 represents an innovative and needed system to support early care and education programs and professionals by offering multiple levels of needed resources to support professional development, coaching, and immediate technical assistance. It will increase the capacity of providers to be able to provide developmentally and culturally appropriate practices. It invests in providers through access to professional development and skill acquisition to support children's mental health and social emotional health needs.

Through this investment, we will have a stronger early care and education system by investing in the capacity of early care educators at all levels to have the skills and best practices to meet the needs of children in our state.

Respectfully,

Early Learning Hub Coalition