

Submitter: Lisa Hughes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2726

February 24, 2023

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen and Members of the Early Childhood and Human Services Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2726, creating the Southern Oregon Early Childhood Support Network.

As a retired children's librarian, I am well aware of the importance of establishing a firm foundation for preschool children before they start school. The more words they know, the more experiences they have, the more conversations they've engaged in, the more books they have had read to them, the better they will do in school. On a very basic level, it does a child no good to be able to sound out C-O-W if the child doesn't know what a cow is. On the other hand, if the child knows that a cow is an animal that lives on a farm and gives the milk that we drink, that the milk is also made into cheese and butter, that it says "Moo", the child has the background knowledge that gives that child a better chance at succeeding.

Parents who are stressed have a much harder time providing this background for their children. If, on the other hand, they are receiving the support they need, there is a much better chance that they will be able to give their children what those children need.

I strongly urge you to support HB2726.

Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mead Hughes
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