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Public Testimony regarding HB 5013

2/2/2023

8 am

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Sub-committee on Education,

On behalf of Black children and families in Oregon, the Black Parent Initiative strongly supports the HB 5013 that will allocate funding to the Early Learning Division and will provide support for early learning initiatives. It is well documented how many challenges face communities of color as we work to support healthy child development and early learning that is culturally appropriate, affirming and sustaining. As a member of the Early Childhood Equity Collaborative, we have struggled to secure funding that will assist us in preparing our children for school and creating education and training to parents and teachers in culturally responsive methods that support learning and retention.

It is an ethical imperative if we are to ensure equitable health and education outcomes for all Oregon children that the ELD has sufficient funding to better support culturally specific early learning programs and services.

We appreciate your deep, thoughtful and empathetic consideration of this request.

Sincerely, 

Bahia Overton