

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, and Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education,

My name is Cedar Horton. I live in St. Helens, Oregon, and have two children, ages 5 and 3. I am a parent representative on NW Early Learning Hub Governance Council and partner with our early learning hub as a Parent Navigator, helping connect families to preschool and child care opportunities.

I am writing to share my support for HB 5013 and the investments in it for Oregon's youngest children and their families.

Specifically, I want to share my support for:

- Investments to maintain stable funding for our statewide **Early Learning Hub system**
- Investments in Oregon's early childhood **WORKFORCE, FACILITIES Infrastructure, and increasing ACCESS to quality programs** - especially access to culturally specific services funded by the Early Childhood Equity Fund, programs that support strong families, and child care.

Last year, Oregon's Early Learning hubs connected over 5,000 families to a preschool slot, connected over 9,000 parents to parenting education services, connected nearly 6,000 families to home visiting services, and engaged over 270 parents in a role within the early learning hub. The early learning hubs therefore rely on a fully funded early childhood system to support their work of connecting families to services and ensuring they're provided in a coordinated fashion.

The work The Early Learning Hub does is near and dear to me as a mother of young children. Being able to partner with them has been incredible, both fulfilling and eye opening. The parent navigator program has been successful in using both modern communication (social media), and old fashioned "word of mouth" to connect parents with services and programs

they might otherwise never come across. While it is just a small portion of the work the early learning hub does, it has been great to witness the families who have benefited and the children who have thrived after finding a placement in a program right for them.

This budget is truly an investment in Oregon's future. I urge your support for the critical investments in our statewide Early Learning Hub system, early childhood workforce, facilities Infrastructure, and increasing access to quality programs.

Thank you,

Cedar Horton