

Co-Chairs and members of the committee –

My name is Steve Schenewerk and I am pastor of Community Baptist Church in Winston, Or where I have served since 1991.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of HB 5013 which reflects the Governor’s proposal for supporting the work of the Department of Early Learning and Care. I am here today representing the South-Central Oregon Early Learning Hub. I have been part of the Hub process since its inception some years ago. I currently am the chair of the Regional Governance Committee and chair of the Regional Budget Committee.

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Early Learning Hubs are crucial to the work of providing care for our most valuable and often most vulnerable population – children from birth through 5. Our Hub covers Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties in Southern Oregon. The work our Hub does includes overseeing Preschool Promise, Coordinated Enrollment, Kindergarten Readiness Partnership, and Innovation (KPI), Community Uplift – a resource and referral program, a parent council, and a host of other programs.

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Our Early Learning Hub – like the other 15 Hubs throughout the state – exists to create and collaborate with our K-12 partners, families, Community Colleges, Native American Tribes, Community Care Organizations, Oregon Department of Human Services partners, Oregon Health Authority partenrs, faith communities, businesses, and local foundations such as the Ford Family Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation. By coordinating with these partners, the Hub serves priority populations and works to ensure that all infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families are have the best options to provide for their children.

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We don’t just do ‘daycare.’ We provide supports to ensure healthy, stable, and attached families, and provide educational opportunities so that children are ready for kindergarten, which enables kindergarten programs to accelerate learning. By providing these crucial resources, Hubs can assist our K-12 partners as they seek to see that 3rd graders meet their benchmarks as well as higher grade levels. This work relies on not just a fully funded hub system, but a network of investments in the early learning system including the proposed \$110 million for the early learning and care facilities fund, the \$20 million proposed for co-locating childcare with affordable housing, and the \$10 million proposed expansion of the Early Childhood Equity Fund.

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) provides robust technical assistance for the needs of each Hub, in their unique community context. The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) assists our Hub – as well as the other 15 Hubs – in integrating with ‘Raise Up Oregon’ objectives established by the Oregon Department of Education.

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Finally, let me say thank you for your diligence and attention to detail as the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) becomes its own state department. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Governor, DELIC, and the legislature as we seek to give children

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| the best opportunities as they are our most valuable and often most vulnerable asset in Southern Oregon.

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