

Submitter: Jessica Porter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB3027

I lead Family and Community Engagement for the South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub. We are one of three regions in Oregon that have Baby Promise and Preschool Promise, and the only hub in the state that does eligibility and enrollment for both programs.

There are three early learning staff across the state of Oregon that have ONE access, which we are allowed to use for Baby Promise only, not the other many early childhood education programs families need. With this, we have been able to help many families with infants and toddlers get ERDC and qualify for care, but this limited reach also means that thousands of families are left without this kind of navigation.

These families end up without benefits, without childcare, and often end up losing their jobs or even their homes.

We have Coordinated Enrollment, which is making great strides locally, but that is a regional effort. We can only advocate for families locally, within the system created by state level work. We need statewide coordinated efforts to establish solutions to the issues families and staff run into every day.

All early learning hubs need ONE access to qualify families for all state funded early learning programs, including Baby Promise, Preschool Promise, and OPK/Head Start, as well as assist families with understanding and accessing ERDC. We have people all over the state that are already doing family centered, coordinated work, it's time we get the reach we need to do this effectively and that can only happen on the state level through House Bill 3027.

Thank you,
Jessica Porter