

Submitter: Dana Hepper
On Behalf Of: Childrens Institute
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB633

Chair Dembrow & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express the Children's Institute's concern about Senate Bill 633. In the 2021 legislative session, early childhood advocates supported legislation to prevent and eliminate suspension & expulsion in early childhood programs (HB 2166, SB 236). The goal of these two bills is to create publicly funded early childhood settings that are accessible to ALL children. Our public preschools and K-12 schools must be places where all children belong. Strategies to achieve that goal must be the guiding focus of legislation and budget writing in the Oregon Legislature. We are concerned that SB 633 would make it easier to exclude children from public education settings, pointing Oregon in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

Dana Hepper
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Children's Institute