

Dear Senator Hansel and Senator Findley,

Thank you for the work that you do on the Ways and Means Committee to serve the children and families of Oregon. Please support SB 5506.

I work as a manager in a Head Start Program in Eastern Oregon. As we are coming out of the covid 19 pandemic we are continuing to be a lifeline for the families we serve. We are now seeing families that are facing greater hardships and we are serving children with more and more behavioral difficulties. On our current budgets it has become harder and harder to attract and retain qualified staff to meet the needs of the families we serve with comprehensive services. Our programs assist families with meeting not only academic needs but also medical, dental, housing, nutritional and other basic needs. It is essential that we are able to raise salaries for our staff to equal wages of kindergarten teachers across the state. Families are unable to function without the support of high-quality early childhood education.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Jennifer Goodman

Family and Community Partnership Manager

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