

Submitter: Angelica Walker
On Behalf Of: Clackamas County Children's Commission
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

I am asking to stabilize funding for local head start programs. We are asking for \$387.843 million funding from the existing funding sources that support our programs, the General Fund and funding from the Student Success Act. This funding level would allow us to maintain existing services, and operate without significant budget cuts. Head Start puts children on the pathway to success.

This program provides essential developmental support for children and individualized support and resources for families. The head start program is available to families that would otherwise not have care for their children and a developmental opportunity for students to prepare for school that may otherwise not be able to attend a preschool program.

The program offers screenings for development, health, dental, and vision. They work closely with the Education Services District to do periodic screenings for developmental delays and neurodivergencies for early detection and support. This early intervention creates a structure of support for the child and family before elementary school begins in order to create a better opportunity for academic success. The window of opportunity for this type of support is small and crucial. If we miss the window we can't go back, timing matters.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. The children and their education are the future, we need to invest in them now to create the best possible outcome for later.