

March 17, 2015

Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 64
Salem, OR 97301

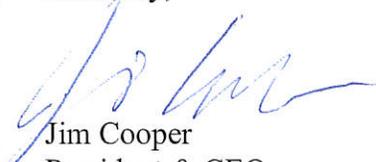
Dear Senator Gelser and Members of the Committee,

United Ways of the Pacific Northwest is the trade association representing 39 local United Way organizations in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. In Oregon we represent 20 organizations who collectively raise and distribute more than \$31 million focused on bettering the health, education and financial stability for all Oregon residents. The mission of United Ways of the Pacific Northwest is to advance the common good throughout the Pacific Northwest by building the individual and collective capacity of member United Ways to impact their communities and collaborate on regional and statewide issues. We do this through the provision of public policy support, training and technical assistance to our members.

Please accept this letter of support for SB 213. United Ways in Oregon believe that high quality early learning programs that are well coordinated by local communities directly contribute to bettering the health, education and financial stability of the entire community. The Early Learning Hubs accomplish just that by focusing on the principals of successful collective impact projects: *Common Agenda, Shared Measurement, Mutually Reinforcing Activities, Continuous Communication* and *Backbone Support*. These hubs are directly providing the *Backbone Support* and making the other principals possible. This piolet project is showing great success and United Ways in Oregon are asking for your **YES vote on SB 213** to make the Early Learning Hubs permanent.

Thank you for your service to Oregon and your consideration in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at Jim@UWPNW.org or 360-451-9053.

Sincerely,


Jim Cooper
President & CEO