

**Testimonio ante el Comité de la Educación**  
**Legislatura del Estado de Oregon**  
**Marzo 4, 2019**

Good afternoon,

As we know, Oregon is one of the states with one of the lowest graduation rates in the United States for many years now.

But to think about the students who haven't had the opportunity to graduate due to not beginning their preparation at an early age, is to think about what wasn't done and what could have been done.

But today I, Lucía Sánchez, mother of 2 Oregonian children, come to ask you for equity for our children who have had fewer opportunities to have culturally specific early childhood programs.

And as a mother from another culture, we need more opportunities for our children to have programs in our language and culture where fathers and mothers can be more effectively involved.

In the name of these children, I ask you to vote in favor of HB 2897.

Our children when they are born, don't know about equity or civil rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our children are the future of a much better Oregon. They don't know now whether they have or need opportunities. From birth, our children only receive the basics under the laws that dictate how their educational development will go and what future they will have.

Knowing that 75% of our children from 0 to 5 years old don't have access to early education. And that 90% of social-emotional development occurs between these ages.

And this is when we expect support to open the doors to effective culturally specific programs so that our children may have the opportunity to change their future and turn the future of this state of Oregon.

Thank you for listening to the need for educational justice for our children of Oregon.