



We are a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.

March 4, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of Stand for Children, I am writing to urge your support of HB 2897, a bill that creates the Early Childhood Equity Fund to support culturally specific early childhood programs with proven results.

A child's learning starts well before that student ever steps into a Kindergarten classroom. Research shows us that 90% of brain development happens between birth and age 5.

As a former Kindergarten teacher, I know first-hand how important it is for every child to have a strong, early start. High-quality early learning opportunities help children immensely by supporting their social emotional development, improving their school readiness, and much more.

However, too many of our young children in Oregon, especially children of color, emerging bilingual children, and low-income children are not accessing the high-quality early learning opportunities they need to succeed and thrive.

To help narrow this opportunity gap, HB 2897 aims to support more high-quality early childhood programs that are responsive to the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of our families and students. As a result, our hope is that this bill will help: expand the reach of these programs; foster stronger bonds between early learning providers, families and children; and support more young children in developing a strong early foundation for their future.

Please support HB 2897. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Parasa Chanramy". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops.

Parasa Chanramy
Policy & Implementation Director