

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to provide comment to the Joint Committee on Student Success for the public hearing on Thursday, April 11 regarding House Bill 2019.

I was glad to see that your committee has approved roughly \$400 million in new investments in early childhood programs and services. Investing in early childhood reduces inequality, expands young minds, and sets children on the path to success.

It is well known that early experiences provide the base for the brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life. These experiences have a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities. Children learn more quickly during their early years than at any other time in life. The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adults, they'll become. That is why we all should understand the importance of investing in very young children, to make sure that we are maximizing their future well-being.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Estrada  
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