

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.

The committee's recommendation for roughly \$400 million in new investments in early childhood is historic. Oregon is in an early childhood crisis, and the time is now for us to invest big in the collected solutions that work: child care, early learning, and partnerships with families!

I urgently request that you fund investments in the early years for cost-effective solutions to later education issues. I have been an early childhood teacher, a school board member (Tigard-Tualatin for 9 years), and non-profit executive director and am now retired. My experience has consistently shown the investments in the early years pay off in the long term.

Please support these new investments in early childhood.

Sincerely,  
Merrily Haas  
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