

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.

"The first three years are a time in human development that is unmatched by any other point later in life. There are 12 million infants and toddlers who live in the United States. The foundation we lay for them today is the most important investment we can make for our society tomorrow. Yet the data are clear: What state a baby is born in makes a big difference in their chance for a strong start in life." (State of Babies Yearbook 2019)

What type of State will Oregon be?. A state that believes that the investment in our children, and thus our society, is worth it, or the State that leaves its children behind and watches with horror from the sidelines?

The secret to getting ahead is getting started. We need to take action now to see the results sooner rather than later (or not at all)!

Please encourage your peers to fully fund all of our early childhood priorities!

Alice Smith  
Executive Director  
Joyful Noise Child Development Centers  
Portland Or 97204

"A kind heart is the defining characteristic of a good person. It is not enough to tell our kids to be charitable and hospitable. We must offer them a program of action so that practicing kindness becomes ingrained into their character." Rabbi Shmuley

Sincerely,  
Alice Smith  
1205 SW Freeman St  
Portland, OR 97219