

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.

I have twin toddlers that receive Early Education services. I appreciate the services, but early education is so important for all children, and I've been surprised to find that Oregon does not offer transitional kindergarten for kids that turn 5 in the fall, or even to those that turn 5 the summer prior to Kindergarten. I have access to many different therapists in the community (Speech at OHSU, Occupational Therapy at Randall and Early Intervention), it's can still be hard to find the right services. My wish for all families is universal Pre-K, but a great first step would be transitional kindergarten for all Oregon Children.

Sincerely,
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