

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.

As a medical provider I know that preventing adverse childhood events between the ages of 0-5 expands lifespans by 20 years. As a community member I know that investing in early childhood makes economic sense in helping avoid juvenile incarceration, homelessness, drug use, and builds strong community members that give back to my community.

I see many patients on Medicaid or with a history of trauma that have chronic pain, fibromyalgia, and mental illness. I have hope that investing in early childhood intervention will help prevent some of these effects of trauma I see today.

Sunshine John PA-C

Sincerely,

Sunshine John

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