

From: [Melissa Duclos-Yourdon](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Thank you for investing in Oregon's kids!
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 9:21:17 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I'm glad to see that the Joint Committee on Student Success has recommended 20 percent of new revenue--roughly \$400 million--be spent on early childhood programs and services including Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, Relief Nurseries, Oregon Pre-K, Preschool Promise, Early Head Start, the Equity Fund, and early childhood professional development. As you know, 90 percent of a child's brain develops in the first five years, and these investments are critical to supporting optimal growth and development and ensuring all kids in Oregon are put on the path for success in school and life.

I'd like to urge you and the rest of the committee to ensure all the investments recommended by the Early Childhood Coalition, including Healthy Families Oregon, Baby Promise, parenting education, and Reach Out & Read receive funding. In order to solve Oregon's early childhood crisis, we must invest in connected solutions including child care, early learning, and partnerships with families.

The committee's recommendations are a great start, but I hope our state can do a bit more to fund Baby Promise in order to address our child care crisis.

Sincerely,
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