



**Oregon Early Learning Council**

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350

Salem, OR 97301

March 30, 2021

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain

Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

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*Chair, Early Learning  
Council*

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*Deputy Director,  
Oregon Department of  
Human Services*

MIRIAM CALDERON  
*Early Learning  
Systems Director*

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I am writing on behalf of the Early Learning Council to express our strong support for the proposed early learning budget as outlined in SB 5513. Early learning in Oregon requires a strong system, which puts a premium on investment in quality child care and preschool services.

The proposed budget continues to make strategic investment in early learning, including growth for state-funded pre-k, which focuses on the child care and early learning needs of three- and four-year-old children. Other critical components of the early childhood system are addressed including the equity fund, home visiting, professional learning, and community systems building through the Early Learning Hubs. The proposal also calls for a new commitment to tribes with the establishment of the Tribal Hub and an early childhood mental health support strategy for child care and preschool.

The investment of state money is complemented by a rising investment of federal resources that are focused on the quality, supply and affordability of child care in our state. These federal dollars, with state match often involved, address the compelling need for child care, which intertwines a focus on child development with availability to enable family members, and especially women, to work.

We thank you for your actions to invest in the needs of young children through early learning and the many benefits that come to children, families, communities and the state from these investments.

Sincerely,

Sue Miller, Chair  
Early Learning Council

