



## LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Anthony Castaneda, Policy Manager,  
Regarding SB 236 and HB 2166  
House Committee on Rules  
June 8th, 2021**

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee,

**Latino Network joins the Early Childhood Equity Collaborative and the Early Childhood Coalition to voice our support for HB 2166 and SB 236 with proposed amendments to cultivate the conditions for all children to learn and thrive in our early childhood system.**

**SB 236 proposes a ban on the practice of suspension and expulsion of children from state-funded early learning programs by 2026.** SB 236 also directs the Early Learning Division to submit a report reviewing current practices, policies, and guidelines with the intention of establishing a process to mitigate challenges. The report will reveal insights into the impact on children and identify strategies for meeting the needs of children and early learning providers. Part of the solution is ensuring that educators and providers have the training and resources to mitigate challenges as they arise.

**HB 2166 will create a program to support our little kiddos and families as well as providers in the earliest stages of a child's life in order to end the practice of early childhood suspensions and expulsions.** The statewide system for early care and education programs will support culturally-responsive and developmentally appropriate placements with the aim to prevent expulsion or suspension from programs. Inclusion and belonging in all early learning opportunities moves us toward closing existing disparities in early childhood stemming from family wealth and capital. Yet, Black children, Indigenous children, and children with developmental disabilities experience the highest suspension and expulsion rates of any age, including k-12 education.

**These bills must pass together to help transform Oregon's early childhood system.** SB 236 and HB 2166 establish strong early childhood policy, improve data systems, and provide robust coaching, tools, and support for early childhood educators so they can better serve all children in their programs.

**We urge the passage of HB2166 and SB 236.** Thank you for your time and leadership.