



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: February 16, 2021

TO: Senator Dembrow, Chair; Vice-Chair Thomsen; and members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lawrence Krupa, MD
Member of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Support SB 236 – Studying Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion

Dear Senators:

I had been a community pediatrician for 30 years in Hillsboro, Oregon, when I did fellowship training in Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics. For the past 10 years I have been working with Mind Matters, P.C., a child and adolescent mental health clinic in Hillsboro. Overall, I have had 40+ years of experience treating the patients and families whom this bill directly affects. I strongly support SB 236 because time is truly of the essence in identifying and treating mentally and behaviorally challenged children.

Studies show that when children are raised in environments where they are having good positive experiences, their brain neurons are stimulated to grow and multiply in the direction of more strength, resilience, and confidence. This is the principle of neuroplasticity. Positive environments encourage young brains and children to continue to improve.

Getting suspended and/or expelled from Kindergarten or Preschool is not a good positive experience. It causes more unnecessary stress on the child and family. A better approach is to study and fund ways to provide good positive learning and life experiences for mentally and behaviorally challenged children as proposed in SB 236.

I strongly urge passage of this bill. Proper attention to and treatment of these problems can have a lifelong effect on these children and their families and the community.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Krupa, MD