



## Oregon Early Learning Council

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350

Salem, OR 97301

### Testimony of Sue Miller before the Early Childhood Committee on House Bill 3073 February 15, 2021

SUE MILLER  
*Chair, Early Learning  
Council*

For the record, Chair Power and members of the Committee, I am Sue Miller, Chair of the Oregon Early Learning Council. I am delighted to talk about House Bill 3073 on early learning governance, which is a high priority for the Early Learning Council.

PATRICK ALLEN  
*Director, Oregon Health  
Authority*

Creating an independent agency whose sole focus is early care and education is an essential step toward achieving the three goals of the early learning system in our strategic plan, *Raise Up Oregon*: 1) children arrive at school ready for kindergarten; 2) children are raised in healthy, stable and attached families; and 3) the early learning system is equitable, aligned, coordinated and family-centered.

ANGELA BLACKWELL

KATY BROOKS

PETER BUCKLEY

As I shared with you last week, *Raise Up Oregon* is our North Star. A unique feature of *our plan* and the Early Learning Council is our work across multiple state agencies with agency directors serving as ex officio members of the Council: the Department of Education, the Health Authority, the Department of Human Services, the Housing and Community Services Agency and the Early Learning Division.

COLT GILL  
*Deputy Superintendent,  
Oregon Department of  
Education*

ANNE KUBISCH

This governance bill builds off of the current collaboration of our partners. While we have accomplished a great deal through alignment and collaboration, because our child care and preschool programming is scattered across these agencies, critical gaps, silos and disconnects for families, providers, and communities exist.

GEORGE MENDOZA

MARGARET MILLER

MARGARET SALAZAR  
*Executive Director,  
Oregon Housing and  
Community Services*

By bringing child care and preschool together in one independent agency, we have a unique opportunity to address these early care and education gaps through a unified early care and education approach.

KALI THORNE LADD

LIESL WENDT  
*Deputy Director,  
Oregon Department of  
Human Services*

At the same time, the agency will be well positioned to successfully partner with other state agencies to address the comprehensive needs of children and families in health, education, housing, food and nutrition, and child welfare.

MIRIAM CALDERON  
*Early Learning  
Systems Director*

We applaud the process and next steps. First, taking time to consult with agencies, stakeholders and families is critical to an open, orderly process that puts families' needs and choices at the center. Second, providing periodic reports to the legislature will ensure that we are meeting your intent.

The Early Learning Council is here to support you. My two fellow Council members, Kali Thorne-Ladd and Katy Brooks, will share their perspectives on the importance of HB 3073. After 25 years in the early childhood field, I am excited to see this systems opportunity in front of us. I applaud you for your work to better address the needs of children and families in our state. Thank you!