



Oregon Child Care Providers Together

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, Local132

1400 Tandem Ave. NE Salem, OR 97301 Phone: 503.370.2522, 800.521.5954 e-mail: info@oregonccpt.com

TO: Senate Committee on Education

RE: SB236

Date: February 24, 2021

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Our union represents licensed in home family child care providers throughout the state. Our providers are deeply and personally invested in their communities, in their client families and in those families' children. Providers truly care about the children. We want the very best for these children. We know that Oregon can do better.

A provider never wants to suspend or expel a child and often is the best and only advocate for a child to receive the services they need to coordinate accommodations, intervention services, supports and parent education so every child can be successful in the programs their family chooses. All too often providers are put in the difficult position of providing care for a child with high behavioral needs without being properly resourced or supported by the state or the family. The failure of the system to fund, support and provide resources to early care and education programs as well as children with higher needs puts providers and the rest of the children in their care, in harm's way.

We are in support of this study and urge you to take this opportunity to add in some additional components that will provide sufficient data to create a holistic and comprehensive approach including:

- More in depth data collection examining where, who and why suspensions and expulsions have occurred in early care;
- An audit of Inclusive Partners (IP) and other current agencies delivering services including data collection from the agencies, the caregivers and the providers with the children with higher needs and special education services in early care and education settings;
- Audits of all special education programs and funding related to ELD and Birth-to-School programs available across the state including accessibility and availability data to identify underserved geographic areas and populations;
- Audit of DHS special needs rate -- including timeliness on application, intake and decision, AND study on family intake rates and rates of families who decline; and
- Creates additional Parent Education and Advocacy/Representation Programs.

We welcome improvements but call on you to ensure coordinated services are fully resourced, evaluated for function and success first and that no ban amendment be added to SB236 that could be harmful for children, families and providers.

Thank you for considering the voices and input of Oregon's family child care providers because we know that together we are part of the solution. We are experts in our field, professionals advocating for children and families. We know complex problems call for complex solutions and hope you and your committee members will allow for a comprehensive study of current services and that Oregon will draft a plan that creates a holistic approach to meet children's, providers' and families' needs instead of fast-tracking a ban which places the burden and the blame on child care programs/providers while creating several unintended consequences and collateral damage.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Aimee Olin

Council Representative