



February 1, 2021

RE: HB 2055 – Establishing Tribal Early Learning Hub for the purpose of delivering early learning services to tribal communities of this state.

Dear Chair Power and members of the House Early Childhood Committee,

The Early Childhood Coalition is excited to share our support for HB 2055 to establish a Tribal early learning hub.

The Early Childhood Coalition knows all children are born full of potential. Yet young children who experience barriers to opportunity due to racism, classism, and other forms of discriminatory policy and practice are often denied access to proven programs and services that strengthen early learning and healthy development. Before the age of 5, a child’s brain makes one million new neural connections every second, with early experiences shaping brain architecture.

We support HB 2055 because the creation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub was requested by Oregon Tribes, and the legislation proposes a process that works with Tribes to develop the details of how this Hub would work and be funded. For generations, public policies which directly impact Indigenous communities have been designed without their input, resulting in widespread and often intentional disparities. When public policy is developed by and for the communities it is designed to impact, it can have a lasting and transformative effect.

When racial equity is at the center of decision-making, early childhood programs and services can mitigate disparities by race/ethnicity, income, geography, disability, language, immigrant and refugee status, houselessness, and foster care. We ask legislators to commit to continued improvement in early care, education, and supports for *all* of Oregon’s young children and families and to center the voices of those most impacted by legislative actions in their decision-making processes.

Sincerely,

Children’s Institute	Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub	Early Learning Multnomah
South-Central Early Learning Hub	Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub	United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
Nurse-Family Partnership	South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub	Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon
Reach Out and Read Oregon		
FACT Oregon	Family Forward Oregon	
Adelante Mujeres	Oregon Child Abuse Solutions	