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To: Senate Rules & Executive Appointments

From: Kali Thorne Ladd, CEO, Children's Institute

Date: September 26, 2023

Re: Support for the appointment of Dr. Charlene Williams as the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Children's Institute enthusiastically supports the appointment of Dr. Charlene Williams to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oregon. Children's Institute imagines an Oregon where all children have the love, education, and care they need. Dr. Williams has the experience, knowledge, and vision Oregon's students deserve in state education leadership to make progress on this goal. We are excited to work with her.

Dr. Williams has decades of experience in education leadership in Oregon and Washington. In those roles, she has a track record of building strong community relationships and partnerships. We have already had the opportunity to work with Dr. Williams on determining how to address a budget shortfall in the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education program. We appreciated her interest and engagement on this issue, and her quick and thorough grasp of the program and funding issue.

Dr. Williams' collaborative approach is in services to improving education and getting better outcomes for Oregon's children. She knows that getting results requires ensuring every child feels they belong at their school and has access to a rigorous education. As a school principal and district leader, Dr. Williams has improved outcomes for students through this commitment to belonging, rigor, and transparency.

We are excited to work with Dr. Williams to advance the Early Literacy Initiative and increase alignment between the early years and the early grades. We urge her swift appointment as Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction.