

Submitter: Chris Colwell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

To whom it may concern

I have been with Head Start for the last 9 years and have seen first hand the time, dedication and love our staff puts out on a daily basis for the children and families in our program. We give our all to provide structure, encouragement, growth, a sense of safety, job/housing referrals and just lending an ear to those who need it most....and so much more!! Recently we have seen more struggles in our communities created by Covid but we have continued to do our job create a safe and healthy space for our families! Now, especially in rural Oregon, we are facing the issues of finding and keeping qualified staff. For these reasons I ask that you please consider advancing the funding needed to raise our salaries to comparable levels of other like jobs so we can attract and keep qualified staff!!

We are doing all we can but we are dependent on you to help us so we may continue to help the 0-5 yr olds (and those families) in our communities.

Thank you

Chris