



## Head Start of Yamhill County

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[www.yamhillheadstart.org](http://www.yamhillheadstart.org)

February 10, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am in support of House Bill 3008, and the development, funding, and critical work that is proposed for the Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund.

Head Start programs across Oregon have experienced the shortage of qualified, quality staff and teachers for several years. We need staff who receive the training and education that includes college-level instruction. Additionally, the mentoring and coaching of persons interested in ECE careers is critical to the students' success, the quality of a program, and the care of Oregon's youngest and most vulnerable children. That mentoring and coaching must be provided through high-quality persons with a grounding in theory, child development, and best practice in a developmentally appropriate environment.

Our agency has been involved in an apprenticeship program through Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Child Care Resource and Referral that has been funded by our CCO. This unique pilot has already made a tremendous impact on our staff, including the teachers. I believe that our entry-level aides involved in this opportunity are receiving a level of quality instruction they could not receive through professional development provided only by our staff. I also believe that the trajectory for their steady employment and promotion is much stronger than if they were not in the apprenticeship program. I expect these staff to continue their path towards an AAS and 4+- year degrees as a result of this opportunity.

*Please* consider this funding to support a quality workforce that is so desperately needed at this time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suey Linzmeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Suey Linzmeier

Executive Director

Head Start of Yamhill County

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