

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support HB 3011. I am a retired teacher who taught in a Title 1 school, primary grades, for over 20 years. I have witnessed, first hand, the benefits of early childhood education in providing critical foundational skills and experiences for youngsters entering our schools. Students who entered kindergarten without preschool often struggled academically, socially, and emotionally. With increasing pressure to meet state benchmarks and proficiency standards, this gap just seemed to grow each year.

I am extremely concerned that the current political climate will have a negative and detrimental impact on future educators. Many states have been enacting harsh laws and penalties for teachers who do not adhere to questionable curriculum and language. As a state, we should be doing all we can to encourage a robust workforce of professional educators. We should value their expertise and pay them fairly.

Please fund HB 3011.

Sincerely,

Lisa LeFrancois