

Submitter: Kirsten Carr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2682

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Kirsten Carr. I am writing to express my strong support for HB2682, a bill that would establish an advisory committee to study and develop recommendations for modernizing the service levels for early intervention and early childhood special education in Oregon. As a parent who has seen firsthand the importance of early educational services and as a healthcare provider, I understand the lasting impact these services have on a child's development.

The early years of a child's life are crucial, and the right interventions can significantly shape their future success. The services available in Oregon must continue to evolve to meet the diverse and growing needs of our children. HB2682 would establish an advisory committee to ensure that the state's early intervention and early childhood special education programs are aligned with best practices and modern research.

As a physician, I recognize the importance of early interventions for promoting healthy development. Providing support during this formative period can have profound effects on a child's academic, social, and emotional well-being. It is critical that Oregon's programs reflect current research and address the unique needs of all children, particularly those with special needs. The advisory committee proposed in HB2682 is essential in ensuring that we provide the best support for our youngest learners.

This bill would allow for a thorough review of current service levels, helping identify gaps in services and ensuring that Oregon's programs are equipped to support the needs of every child. The committee's recommendations will guide the modernization of services, making them more effective and accessible, particularly for families in underserved and rural areas. Such improvements would ensure that children, regardless of where they live, have access to high-quality early education and intervention.

As a parent, I understand the challenges of navigating systems that provide support for children with special needs. In some regions, services are limited, and families often face long waiting times and difficulties accessing appropriate care. HB2682 provides an opportunity to address these inequities by developing a comprehensive, statewide approach to early intervention and special education. The advisory committee's recommendations could ensure a more streamlined and equitable system, making it easier for families to access the services their children need.

Additionally, this bill would allow for broader discussions on how best to serve Oregon's youngest learners. It ensures that diverse needs are met in a way that is effective, inclusive, and sustainable. Modernizing our state's early intervention and special education services would strengthen the foundation for future success for all children.

HB2682 represents a critical step forward in enhancing Oregon's early childhood special education programs. By establishing this advisory committee, we can ensure that the services available to our youngest learners are aligned with current needs, research, and best practices. This bill will provide the framework for ongoing improvement and innovation in early childhood education, benefiting children across the state.

I strongly urge you to support HB2682. By doing so, you will be helping to ensure that every child in Oregon receives the support they need to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Carr, MD
Portland, OR