

Submitter: SHERRIE MCCLURE  
On Behalf Of: Children and Families in Yamhill County  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

March 5, 2025

Dear Legislators,

As a Head Start Lead teacher with HSYC, I believe this program is very important for our families and community.

I had no idea, joining the Head Start team 8 years ago (after 30 years in ECE and ECE Special Education), the far-reaching and deep impact our program has for children and families. From Early Home Visitors (pregnancy to 3 years old), to the preschool program (3-5 years old) and the Family Support home visitors, each family has personal relationships and individualized support from the very beginning to starting public school.

Education staff, support staff (cooks, bus drivers, etc), coaches and administrative staff are all committed to excellence and supporting our families to grow, set and achieve goals and to see education as important to their child's future. Education staff are educated in best practices and are experts in supporting their children's development and school readiness. Kindergarten teachers tell us that they can tell which children have been in Head Start because, even though they may be experiencing trauma or poverty, they are prepared for kindergarten! This is the best compliment I can hear as a preschool teacher.

My hope is that each of you vote in support of Bill SB 5514 to secure our funding!

Thank you,

Sherrie McClure

Lead Teacher

Newberg 1 (4-5-years old)