
Ways and Means Testimony

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To Lisa Harnisch <lharnisch@earlylearninghub.org>; Tiffany Gallagher <tgallagher@earlylearninghub.org>

Hi ladies, I've drafted this statement for Thursday!

My name is Lucy Briseno, and I am honored to share today about the importance of building a strong early childhood system, especially one that focuses on parent education, community support, and making literacy a part of every household from the very beginning.

As a parent and a member of the Parent Advisory Committee for the past five years, I have seen firsthand the incredible impact that a strong, supportive system can have on both families and children. Early childhood is such a critical time in a child's development, and having the right resources and support can set them up for success in ways that last a lifetime.

One of the most significant aspects of this system is parent education. Parents are a child's first teachers, and equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and support they need can make all the difference. In our community, the need for parent education is essential. It not only empowers parents to better understand their child's developmental needs, but it also gives them the confidence to engage in meaningful activities that foster learning and growth.

In addition to parent education, making literacy a priority in every household is a key factor in a child's success. Research has shown that when families make reading and literacy a part of their daily lives, children develop stronger language skills, better cognitive abilities, and a greater love for learning. The earlier we introduce literacy into a child's life, the better their chances for long-term success. It's not just about reading books—it's about creating a culture of learning and curiosity in the home.

The Hub has been instrumental in supporting these efforts. Over the past five years, I've watched the Hub grow and expand its services, providing invaluable resources to families. As a member of the Parent Advisory Committee, I have seen how they've worked tirelessly to organize, coordinate, and share these resources with our community. Whether it's connecting parents to early literacy programs, offering workshops on child development, or providing support for families who need it most, the Hub has been a true lifeline for so many of us.

Personally, my family's literacy "muscle" has grown immensely thanks to my involvement with the Hub. I've gained a greater awareness of the importance of literacy, and I've learned how to integrate simple, everyday practices into our routine that make a huge difference. Our home is now a place where books, learning activities, and conversations are part of our everyday life. This has not only benefited my child but has also strengthened my own understanding of how to be a better, more engaged parent.

The work the Hub does is not just beneficial—it's essential. By continuing to invest in and support early childhood education, parent education, and literacy programs, we are ensuring that every child in our community has the opportunity to thrive. I am incredibly grateful for the support the Hub has provided, and I look forward to seeing how their work will continue to impact families in the years to come.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share my story.