

Submitter: Sarah Hollingworth  
On Behalf Of: SB 5514  
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On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, Members of the Committee, my name is Sarah Hollingworth, I am a mental health professional and a member of the Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub Governance Council.

As you know, hubs are local conveners, connectors and capacity builders of the early learning system in their region. One role of the hubs is to look at supply and demand for child care in our regions and engage our cross-sector partners in identifying what we can do locally to begin to meet the need.

In our region, we learned that 53% of our families would qualify for a publicly funded slot, if one was available, but that only 17% get access to one. These are stark numbers. We hosted a regional kickoff event last year, inviting all sectors partners to hear the data and find out how they could become engaged and support this work.

DELIC invested \$3M into my hub for the biennium, and since that kickoff event, we raised an additional \$1.4M for more access to child care, to create a better pipeline for people entering the field, and to provide behavioral health supports to children and teachers in the classrooms.

That's the power of early learning hubs in their communities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify. I strongly support current service level funding for early learning hubs.