



February 6, 2025

Support for SB 5514

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Rosengreen and I am writing today in support of SB5514, appropriating funding to the Department of Early Learning and Care. I am Program Manager for the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program in Washington County, which is a program of Community Action. Community Action also provides Healthy Families Oregon and Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK) programming in Washington County. These programs are integral to Washington County children and families. As an agency whose mission is to create opportunities for people and communities to thrive, these services are critical for Washington County residents to thrive.

Child Care Resource & Referral is the community expert for child care systems and the early learning workforce working to address the growing challenges of the child care industry. CCR&R provides a network of experts that increase access to quality child care through training, advocacy, community-based learning, and relationship-based support for child care providers and families alike. **1,480 early educators** attended training opportunities offered by CCR&R of Washington County last year.

Healthy Families promotes child well-being through parenting support and skill development. Specially trained Family Support Specialists work with expecting families or parents of newborns in their homes for the first three years of their child's life and connect them to vital services. We served **95 families** last year.

Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten - Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer high-quality early childhood education at no cost for **584 children** prenatal to age 5 who live in Washington County. These programs provide comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families, including health screenings, nutrition, social services, and other resources based on each family's individual situation. We offer full and part-day programs in locations throughout Washington County, including Coffee Creek Correctional Facility where children interact and build a strong bond with their mothers.

The preservation of DELC funding will ensure the stabilization of critical early learning services in Washington County like Child Care Resource & Referral, Healthy Families, and Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten – Head Start and Early Head Start. Thank you for your consideration and support of this vital community infrastructure.

Sincerely,
Jessica Rosengreen
Program Manager, Child Care Resource & Referral