

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1167

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1167, which appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to seven entities aimed at supporting the development of successful children in our state. While the goal of fostering children's development is commendable, I have serious concerns about the execution and implications of this funding initiative.

Firstly, the allocation of public funds must be approached with caution and accountability. Without a clear framework for how these funds will be managed and how success will be measured, there is a risk of misallocation and inefficiency. Taxpayer dollars should be utilized in a way that guarantees transparency and tangible outcomes, and I worry that this bill lacks the necessary oversight mechanisms to ensure that funds are effectively used.

Moreover, the selection of the seven entities to receive funding must be scrutinized. It is crucial that these organizations have a proven track record in effectively supporting children's development and that they are representative of the diverse needs of our communities. If the chosen entities do not adequately engage with families and children from various backgrounds, we may inadvertently perpetuate existing disparities rather than address them.

Additionally, I believe that rather than distributing funds to a select number of entities, a more equitable approach would be to foster collaboration among various stakeholders, including schools, community organizations, and families. This would encourage a holistic strategy that addresses the multifaceted needs of children and allows for greater community input and involvement.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider support for SB 1167. It is imperative that any funding aimed at supporting children in our state is managed transparently, involves a diverse range of stakeholders, and prioritizes equitable outcomes. I encourage you to advocate for a more comprehensive approach that truly reflects the needs of all children and families in Oregon.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I hope you will take my concerns into account as you deliberate on the implications of SB 1167.