

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1167 – Investing in the Success of Oregon's Children

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

On behalf of the Women's Foundation of Oregon, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1167, which appropriates funds to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to seven entities committed to fostering the development of successful children across our state.

At the Women's Foundation of Oregon, we are dedicated to advancing gender and racial justice, with a focus on improving the lives of women, girls, and their communities. We know that the first 1,000 days of life—from conception to age two—are a critical period for a child's cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Investments during this foundational window have a profound and lasting impact on future health outcomes, educational achievement, and overall well-being.

SB 1167 prioritizes locally driven, community-specific strategies to address the root causes that hinder a child's ability to thrive. By centering the experiences of families and providing the resources they need, this bill ensures equitable opportunities for all children while holding systems accountable to clear, measurable outcomes. This proactive approach aligns with Oregon's commitment to equity and reflects our shared responsibility to support every child's right to a healthy and successful future.

The Women's Foundation of Oregon urges your support for SB 1167 as a critical investment in the long-term well-being of Oregon's children, families, and communities.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Libra Forde Executive Director Women's Foundation of Oregon