

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

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Measure SB1167, allocating critical funding to support the first thousand days of life for babies, parents, and families in Portland. This measure represents an essential investment in the future of our community by prioritizing the foundational period of early childhood development — a time when research shows that the building blocks for lifelong health, learning, and well-being are established.

The first thousand days of life, from conception to a child's second birthday, are widely recognized by developmental experts as a crucial window of opportunity. During this time, rapid brain development and emotional bonding shape a child's cognitive, social, and emotional foundations. Providing robust support to families during this period directly improves outcomes in health, education, and social stability, reducing the long-term burden on public systems and strengthening the fabric of our society.

Families in Portland face mounting pressures — from the rising cost of living to gaps in access to healthcare and affordable childcare. Measure SB1167 offers a thoughtful, evidence-based solution to address these challenges head-on by providing families with the tools and resources they need to thrive during the earliest and most vulnerable stage of life.

I urge you to support Measure SB1167. By doing so, you will make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of Oregon's children and families, setting them on a path toward a healthier, more successful future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
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