

SUE MILLER Chair, Early Learning Council

March 21, 2025

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

House Committee on Education

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PETER BUCKLEY

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MARIE SIMONDS

ALYSSA CHATTERJEE Early Learning System Director Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council offers its support for HB 3039 which seeks to study ways to increase the availability of summer and afterschool enrichment programs for Oregon's children and youth. This bill helps advance some of the work outlined in *Raise Up Oregon*, our state's comprehensive early childhood plan.

*Raise Up Oregon* outlines the importance of learning being experienced beyond the classroom. Increasing the availability of high-quality summer and after school programs helps children and youth continue learning and building social-emotional skills which lead to increased long-term success.

In addition to the enhanced learning opportunities for children, extended learning hours provide support for the Oregon workforce. When children have access to safe care and enrichment programs outside of the regular school day hours, parents and families are able to remain in the workforce which is essential for Oregon's economy and overall economic stability.

We urge your support of HB 3039.

Sincerely,

Sue Miller Chair, Early Learning Council Oregon Early Learning Council 700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350 Salem, OR 97301