

Dear Co-Chair Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Helen Ying, and as an educator and a dedicated member of the Portland State University Foundation Board, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3011, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund. This critical investment will strengthen Oregon's pipeline of early childhood educators and ensure our state's youngest learners receive the quality care and education they deserve.

Oregon faces a growing shortage of early childhood educators, making it difficult for families to access affordable, high-quality childcare. HB 3011 directly addresses this challenge by providing targeted funding to community colleges and public universities that prepare future early learning professionals. By supporting degree and certificate programs, on-the-job training at campus-based childcare centers, and institutions that are actively awarding credentials, this bill creates a sustainable and equitable approach to workforce development.

As a former educator, I've seen firsthand the impact that early childhood education programs have on students and communities. Graduates of these programs go on to fill essential roles in childcare centers, preschools, and early learning programs across the state. However, without increased investment in training opportunities, Oregon risks falling further behind in meeting workforce demand.

I urge you to support HB 3011 and prioritize funding for early childhood educator preparation. This investment will not only expand educational access for students pursuing these careers but will also help stabilize and strengthen Oregon's early learning system for years to come.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's future.

Sincerely,

Helen Ying