



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: March 27, 2025
TO: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 3933, Relating to Funding for Relief Nurseries

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County strongly supports HB 3933 and the proposed funding for the Relief Nursery programs outlined in the bill.

Relief Nurseries provide essential, trauma-informed services to young children and their families, focusing on the prevention of child abuse and neglect through therapeutic early childhood programs, home visiting, and family support services. These programs serve some of our most vulnerable children, ensuring they have the stability, care, and resources necessary for healthy development.

In our community, Relief Nurseries, and specifically the Early Childhood Hub of Lane County, have been a lifeline for families facing economic hardship, housing instability, and other systemic challenges. The impact of these programs extends beyond individual families; they contribute to stronger healthier communities by reducing the need for costly interventions later in life. Investing in early childhood services has been consistently shows to yield significant long-term benefits, including improved educational outcomes, lower rates of juvenile delinquency, and increased economic stability for families.

The appropriation of \$4.9m to the Department of Early Learning and Care is a critical investment in the well-being of Oregon's children and families. With increasing demand for services, this funding will help Relief Nurseries sustain and expand their reach, ensuring that more families in Lane County and across the state receive the support they need.

We and the Early Childhood Hub of Lane County urge you to support this legislation and to recognize the profound impact that Relief Nurseries have on the future of our communities. By prioritizing early childhood services, we are making a wise and necessary investment in Oregon's future.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER