

Submitter: Kali Grunnet
On Behalf Of: Brooks Friedenfels
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Amend SB 5515 to allocate \$432.8 million for EI/ECSE to meet growing demand and ensure every child gets the support they need. My son, Brooks, is three years old and disabled. He has cerebral palsy, a hearing impairment and a vision impairment. He loves being with other children, he is smart and funny and very sweet. He deserves to receive extra support in the classroom so that he can participate in the same social and educational environment as his neurotypical peers. Brooks is physically disabled but his educational experience is just as important as someone who is not disabled. His teachers need funding to best support him and he deserves to be given these resources to ensure he has the best quality of life. The PEER program at the Clackamas Early Childhood Center is an amazing inclusive environment and I am urging you to provide them with the funding they need. The teachers are phenomenal and are curating thoughtful children that are kind and smart. They emphasize inclusion in their classroom and make education and socialization accessible to all students. This type of classroom needs to become mainstream, its so hard to find a school, especially a preschool that will support disabled children and disabled children do not deserve to be excluded from the classroom. It is time to think progressively and cultivate a more inclusive society. Please amend SB 5515!