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April 7, 2025

Chair Lew Frederick  
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

#### **RE: SB 141 – K-12 Accountability**

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As the Director of Research and Strategy at the Children's Institute, **I am writing to express my strong support for SB 141.**

The Children's Institute aims to make Oregon the best place to be a kid. Early childhood is a crucial developmental period for learning, yet fewer than half of children arrive at school with necessary kindergarten readiness skills. Without effective instruction, learning gaps become entrenched by the end of kindergarten. We advocate for policies that expand research-backed practices in early learning environments, setting children on the path to success. **SB 141 will ensure quality education for all, especially those currently underserved.**

We were delighted to see the meaningful amendments to SB 141, including interim assessments, which are vital for improving early educational trajectories. These assessments help track student outcomes using evidence-based metrics, providing targeted support for school districts.

Oregon must seize this opportunity and act now to ensure we have an accountability system that includes support from the earliest grades. **We urge the committee to support SB 141 to advance a more just and equitable education system for Oregon's children.**

Sincerely  
Marina Merrill, PhD