



Oregon Early Learning Council

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350

Salem, OR 97301

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Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team

Attn: Michelle Hatfield

500 Summer St. NE, E65

Salem, OR 97301

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*Early Learning
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Dear Members of the Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team,

I write on behalf of the Early Learning Council in support of strategies aimed to bolster young children (0-5) and their families in Oregon's Medicaid 1115 Waiver. Thank you for prioritizing the youngest Oregonians by aligning several strategies of the Waiver with those of *Raise Up Oregon: A Statewide Early Learning System Plan*, specifically the goals to ensure that children and their families are healthy and supported to enter school. As noted in the Waiver, families with young children are at the poorest stage in their lifetimes, and families of color disproportionately make up young families in poverty.

We commend you for the proposal of continuous enrollment for young children in Medicaid, which will facilitate access to routine care and needed specialized services, during the most critical growth and development period in their lives. We also support the proposed changes in the metrics and note the delineation of upstream and downstream metrics with the focus on equity and prevention. We note as well the focus on meeting the health care needs of children in the child welfare system, and appreciate this as so many of the children impacted by this system are in the birth to five age range. Finally, the proposed Community Investment Collaborative provide an important opportunity to give voice to community members.

As you seek to implement these, we encourage connection with the Early Learning Hubs and with families and providers who are part of the early care and education system and who are also participants in the Oregon Health Authority's Waiver programming.

Thank you again for your dedication to supporting the youngest Oregonians and their families through strengthening safety nets that keep young families thriving. You have our endorsement for the proposed Waiver.

Sincerely,

Sue Miller, Chair
Early Learning Council