

From: Sarah Hodges [<mailto:sarahhodges77@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 11:08 AM

To: Rep Komp; Sen Monroe; Rep Sprenger; Rep Huffman; Rep Smith Warner; Rep Taylor; Sen Roblan; Sen Thomsen; Wilson Doug

Subject: EI/ECSE Funding

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Sarah Hodges, I am a single mother of two daughters living in Seaside, Oregon. My oldest daughter, Claire, was born with complications that have rendered her developmentally delayed. Because of the support we have received through the EI/ECSE programs, she is able to join her peers in kindergarten this year when she turns 6 years old in September. She has had trouble with her speech and has been improving leaps and bounds because of the speech therapy she has received. Her fine and gross motor skills were also affected by the early trauma, as well as her balance. Because of the occupational therapy that she has received, the delay is unnoticed by the untrained eye. Lastly, because of the contact with her peers in the smaller class rooms, Claire is able to practice her social skills to learn what is acceptable behavior in a classroom environment. Having these skills in place with her developmental delay will help her adjust to a larger classroom and be able to keep better focus on the lessons.

Without this kind of program available and well funded, I can honestly say she would not have come as far as she has. I hope that you feel motivated for the future of children like Claire to move forward in matters concerning funding for the EI/ECSE programs in all of Oregon. Thank you very much for your time, your consideration in these matters and the opportunity to share the importance of these programs. Please, have a nice day, and thank you again.

Sincerely, Sarah Hodges