

**From:** [Marina Merrill](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 3427: Thank you for investing in Oregon's kids!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 7:07:09 AM

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Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to provide comment to the Joint Committee on Student Success for the public hearing on Thursday, April 18 regarding House Bill 3427.

I was thrilled to see that your committee has approved roughly \$400 million in new investments in early childhood programs and services. Investing in early childhood reduces inequality, expands young minds, and sets children on the path to success.

These services are critical and the early learning system has been underfunded for far too long, contributing to many of the behavior and learning challenges impacting the K-12 education system as well as other social service systems. This is a good start to begin to address the opportunity gaps and inequalities that begin long before children enter school.

Sincerely,  
Marina Merrill  
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