Dear Sirs,

I read of your challenge to change the future of children in Oregon. Early education is the key to saving the children of today. The one thing you did not mention is the early head start program. The head start program is useful but most children come with more barriers by the time they get to head start. The teachers do not have enough years to help the children reach the bench mark for kindergarten. Head start programs are helping the children but their hands sometimes are tie by the overwhelming task that is set before them. The answer is more early head start programs. Many early childhood educators have said that the early intervention is better for the child. What better way than at birth to help child of Oregon.

I work as director of a teen parent program. I have about one referral to intervention about every six months. That means that the child has barriers to learning. If this child has to wait until they enter head start they have to play catch up to just meet head start bench marks. When the child is ready to enter kindergarten he still at behind because there was not enough time to deal with the barriers.

If you are serious about helping children today, by the way, most of the children are from teen parents. We need to consider starting from the beginning and putting your money on the youngest members of society. Stem the tide from the beginning.

Thank you

Linda Acedo
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