



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

July 24, 2025

The Honorable Tobias Read
Secretary of State
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 5514

Dear Secretary Read:

Today I am signing Senate Bill 5514, the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC) budget bill. Among my top priorities in this office is to support every Oregon family's access to affordable early childhood education and support. I write this letter in support of the funding necessary to carry out the agency's work to support Oregon children and families, and to identify concerns unaddressed in the appropriations in Senate Bill 5514.

I recognize the challenges lawmakers faced this session due to projected declines in Corporate Activity Tax revenues for the Early Learning Account. This has contributed to \$35.4 million in reductions to specific programs, including a 10% reduction to Preschool Promise, an approximate 10% reduction to Healthy Families, and a 2% reduction to Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten (OPK). These programs are crucial to the education and well-being of our earliest learners and supporting vulnerable families.

I am directing DELC to implement budget reductions in a manner that limits service disruptions to families, and my office will work closely with the agency during implementation. If it is not possible to manage this reduced budget without impacting families, I plan to bring the issue forward to legislative leaders prior to the 2026 legislative session.

Additionally, several early literacy investments crucial to improving student outcomes were not included in Senate Bill 5514. While we have made meaningful steps during my first two years as Governor, we must maintain our focus on the Birth to Five Literacy Initiative if we truly aim to have every child in Oregon reading proficiently by the time they leave third grade.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Speaker of the House Julie Fahey
Senate President Rob Wagner

TK:smg