



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release
June 22, 2021

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House Votes to Ban Suspensions and Expulsions from Early Childhood Programs

Under SB 236 B, the Early Learning Division would deliver a report to the legislature on strategies to reduce suspensions and expulsions in early childhood care and learning settings.

SALEM, OR - Today, the Oregon House voted to pass [SB 236 B](#), a bill that would prohibit state-funded early childhood care and learning providers from suspending or expelling a child. The ban would go into effect on July 1st, 2026, after the Early Learning Division reports a plan to reduce suspensions and expulsions in early learning settings by July 1st, 2022.

“Children's belonging is central to their thriving. When we suspend or expel children at such a young age, we send a signal to the contrary. This has deleterious effects on their well-being for years to come. The research also shows this is where the school-to-prison pipeline can begin. This is unacceptable, and I'm relieved that Oregon is making the choice to prioritize our youth and stop the early criminalization of children,” said Kali Thorne-Ladd, Steering Committee member of the [Reimagine Oregon](#) project and a leader amongst a coalition of advocates on the bill.

“Research has shown that young children of color are suspended and expelled from early learning programs at disproportionately greater rates than other children. That's a prescription for failure and it needs to stop. At the same time, we need to provide providers and parents with the guidance and support needed to keep kids on the right track. That's what SB 236 B, in combination with HB 2166 A, will do,” shared [Sen. Michael Dembrow](#) (D-Portland), Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

“Oregon has significant work ahead of us to reduce discrimination and bias in early education settings. Passage of this bill has set a clear vision of what Oregon wants to be by 2026, however: a state where no young child experiences discrimination before they even reach kindergarten,” said [Rep. Karin Power](#) (D-Milwaukie), Chair of the House Early Childhood Committee.

“I have sat with families who are heartbroken and frustrated when their child is asked to leave a preschool or a daycare,” said [Rep. Lisa Reynolds](#) (D-Portland), a pediatrician and Vice-Chair of the House Early Childhood Committee, “When kids act out, we should not ask: ‘Why did you do that?’ Rather, we ask, ‘What happened to you and how can I help?’ Using this less punitive approach improves both the well-being of a child and the adult caregiver. SB 236 B and HB 2166 A will provide critical training and support to caregivers so they can truly support every single child in our state.”

[HB 2166 A](#), a companion bill to SB 236 B, would appropriate funds to establish an early childhood suspension and expulsion prevention program, diversify Oregon’s educator workforce, and create a public charter school equity grant program for schools that serve students with disabilities and those experiencing academic disparities. The bill passed out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee with bipartisan support and will be slated for a floor vote later this week.

SB 236 B passed 36-22 and now moves to the Governor’s desk.

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