

2SSB 5452 - S AMD TO S AMD (S2476.2) 245

By Senators Hasegawa, Chase

WITHDRAWN 3/10/2015

1 On page 1, after line 26, insert the following:
2 "(3) The legislature also finds that despite the proven success
3 of targeted early learning programs, a targeted approach will always
4 leave out some children who would benefit from access to high quality
5 programming, including some disadvantaged children as well as
6 children from working class families who simply may be unable to
7 afford the full cost of top quality programs. The legislature also
8 finds that school readiness is not just an issue for children living
9 in poverty, it is also an issue for middle class children who lag
10 behind their wealthy peers in both cognitive and social skills. The
11 legislature further finds that voluntary universal preschool programs
12 have the potential to be significantly more effective because they
13 serve disadvantaged children in heterogeneous classes and all
14 children benefit when all of their classmates are better prepared for
15 school success. The legislature, therefore, intends to continue
16 building capacity while also focusing on quality in state-supported,
17 targeted early learning programs, with the long-term goal of pursuing
18 strategies to implement a voluntary universal high quality early
19 learning program that would be available to all children in the
20 state."

EFFECT: Makes legislative findings about the benefits of voluntary universal preschool access. Declares legislative intent to pursue strategies to support a voluntary universal program of high quality early learning, available to all children in the state.

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