

2SSB 5452 - S AMD 233

By Senators Hasegawa, Chase

WITHDRAWN 3/10/2015

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

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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