



Crayon Award Winners

July 2016

Crayon Awardees are state lawmakers who are champions and advocates for early learning; they understand the value of investing in the first years of a child's life. They know that early learning investments are critical to closing the school readiness gap for kids who are starting with fewer opportunities.

These Crayon Awards acknowledge achievements from 2015 and 2016. Our work to close the opportunity gap for kids is not done. We recognize these legislative champions with the hope that they will continue to grow their leadership on behalf of young children in the future.



Sen. Andy Billig (D-3rd) represents central Spokane.

Sen. Billig is awarded the Crayon Award for his support of early learning and 12-month child care subsidy authorizations.



Sen. John Braun (R-20th) represents parts of Lewis, Cowlitz, and Thurston, and Clark Counties.

Sen. Braun is awarded the Crayon Award for his support of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and the Early Start Act.



Rep. Bruce Chandler (R-15th) represents eastern Yakima County.

Rep. Chandler is awarded the Crayon Award for providing critical support for the Early Start Act and funding its provisions and for being a supporter of home visiting.



Speaker of the House Frank Chopp (D-43rd) represents the Seattle neighborhoods of Downtown, South Lake Union, Capitol Hill, Wallingford, the University District, and Madison Park.

Speaker Chopp is awarded the Crayon Award for his strong support of the Early Start Act and early learning funding.



Sen. Joe Fain (R-47th) represents south central King County, including the cities of Auburn, Kent, Covington, and Renton.

Sen. Fain is awarded the Crayon Award for his support of the Early Start Act and including early learning as part of his overall advocacy for kids.



Sen. Jim Hargrove (D-24th) represents Clallam, Jefferson, and north Grays Harbor Counties.

Sen. Hargrove is awarded the Crayon Award for championing fair compensation and critical resources for in-home child care providers to support their efforts to help kids thrive.



Sen. Andy Hill (R-45th) represents parts of King County, including Kirkland, Redmond, Sammamish, Woodinville, and Duvall.

Sen. Hill is awarded the Crayon Award for his support of the Early Start Act's policies and funding. As a budget writer, he has supported critical resources for early learning programs.



Rep. Ruth Kagi (D-32nd) represents northwest King and southwest Snohomish Counties.

Rep. Kagi is awarded the Crayon Award for being a consistent champion for kids and early learning and for being the lead sponsor of the Early Start Act.



Sen. Pramila Jayapal (D-37th) represents parts of Renton and the Seattle neighborhoods of Beacon Hill, the Central District, Rainier Valley, Columbia City, and Rainier Beach.

Sen. Jayapal is awarded the Crayon Award for her support for equity components in the Early Start Act, as well as for fair compensation and critical resources for in-home child care providers to support their efforts to help kids thrive.



Sen. Steve Litzow (R-41st) represents Mercer Island and parts of Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and Sammamish.

Sen. Litzow is awarded the Crayon Award for his sponsorship of and leadership on the Early Start Act.



Rep. Chad Magendanz (R-5th) represents central east King County, including Issaquah.

Rep. Magendanz is awarded the Crayon Award for supporting the Early Start Act and for actively including early learning in the education continuum.



Sen. Sharon Nelson (D-34th) represents Vashon Island, West Seattle, and Burien.

Sen. Nelson is awarded the Crayon Award for her support of fair compensation and critical resources for in-home child care providers to support their efforts to help kids thrive.



Rep. Eric Pettigrew (D-37th) represents parts of Renton and the Seattle neighborhoods of Beacon Hill, the Central District, Rainier Valley, Columbia City, and Rainier Beach.

Rep. Pettigrew is awarded the Crayon Award for his critical support for the Early Start Act, particularly provisions in the bill to support low-income and diverse early learning providers.



Sen. Ann Rivers (R-18th) represents parts of Clark County.

Sen. Rivers is awarded the Crayon Award for her support of the Early Start Act. She also supported the Senate version of the Dual Language Bill, SB 5675, which would have expanded dual language programming and bilingual instruction in Washington.



Sen. Christine Rolfes (D-23rd) represents parts of Kitsap County and Bainbridge Island.

Sen. Rolfes is awarded the Crayon Award for her support of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and the Early Start Act.



Rep. Tana Senn (D-41st) represents Mercer Island and parts of Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and Sammamish.

She is awarded the Crayon Award for her support of early learning, particularly advocacy for children in the child welfare system.



Rep. Maureen Walsh (R-16th) represents Pasco and parts of Benton, Walla Walla, and Columbia Counties.

Rep. Walsh is awarded the Crayon Award for her support for the Early Start Act, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), and fair compensation and critical resources for in-home child care providers.



Rep. J.T. Wilcox (R-2nd) represents parts of south Pierce and southeast Thurston Counties.

Rep. Wilcox is awarded the Crayon Award for his critical support for the Early Start Act in the budget process and for his strong focus on early learning in rural communities.



Early Learning Emerging Leaders

Early Learning Emerging Leader Awardees are rising advocates for expanding opportunities for young children; we count on their growing support.



Rep. Tom Dent (R-13th) represents Lincoln and Kittitas Counties and part of Grant County.

Rep. Dent is awarded the Early Learning Emerging Leader Award for his support for early learning and of the Early Start Act.



Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (D-21st) represents southwest Snohomish County, including Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Mukilteo.

Rep. Ortiz-Self is awarded the Emerging Early Learning Leader Award for her support of the Dual Language Bill, HB 1783, which would have expanded dual language programming and bilingual instruction in Washington—including its early learning components. She also supported the equity elements of the Early Start Act.

Contact:
Jessica Roach
Children's Alliance Interim Early Learning Policy Director
jessica@childrensalliance.org
206-324-0340 x29