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Progress Means Changing the Status Quo

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early childhood education requires specialized skills and training, and that teachers with those attributes should be compensated on the same scale as their K-12 peers.

Preschool Promise is part of a crucial effort to help Oregon change the status quo, to truly change the trajectory for our most vulnerable children and families. It will elevate the early learning workforce, pay teachers equitably, and prepare educators to deliver high-quality preschool. And it will help the state bolster its commitment to high-quality programming that will unequivocally change lives.

But Preschool Promise is merely at its starting point. We need to push to support what we've set in motion to strengthen early learning and improve education and health outcomes for our disadvantaged children and families. The vision for Preschool Promise will only be met if advocates and state leaders pull together and commit to supporting high-quality implementation and ensuring there are pathways to education and training. They also have to support the funding to back it.

To serve more low-income children, Oregon needs to invest more. In this coming legislative session, we will push for increased fund-

ing for Preschool Promise, more support for professional development, and a focus on implementation and evaluation to support improvement and measure child outcomes. We will also push for more opportunities and financial support for culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse teachers to increase their education.

Preschool Promise is a smart, strategic public investment for Oregon. But the work has just begun. Preschool Promise can only deliver if we sufficiently invest and support a quality workforce.

We engage in this work fully aware of the significant challenges facing low-income families and children of color. But we also believe we can succeed in changing life outcomes with coordinated efforts by families, advocates, schools, community members, and state leaders. Together we must remove obstacles and fulfill the vision that all children, no matter their income or race, will be able to achieve school and life success.

Swati Adarkar is president and chief executive officer of the Children's Institute, a Portland-based nonprofit that is committed to all children being prepared for success in school and life, promoting cost-effective public and private investment in our children pre-birth through third grade.

Williams Sister Olympic Loss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

spectators, other members of the crowd would respond with boos.

Safarova and Strycova did their best to keep hitting shots toward Venus when she was at the baseline, while Serena was left to stand near the net and watch those exchanges.

"I wasn't playing the way I needed to play," Serena said. "I wasn't crossing the way I need to cross."

The Williams sisters appeared

to be getting back into the match in the second set, which was even at 4-all.

But Venus got broken there, allowing Strycova to serve out the surprising victory.

"Lucie was playing unbelievable from the baseline," Strycova said. "She was hitting amazing winners, returns."

At that point, Safarova interjected: "And Barbora was a magician at the net."

-The Associated Press

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