



Bud to Blossom
Children's School of Discovery



Testimony Before
The House Committee on Human Services and Housing

By
Rose Thrasher
Director, Bud to Blossom Children's School of Discovery

March 13, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

Bud to Blossom Children's School of Discovery is a certified child care center in Salem, Oregon. House Bill 2027 would permit the Department of Education's Office of Child Care to consider any information obtained by the office when reviewing enrollment in the Central Background Registry. We support all provisions of this measure except for one part in section 5.

A portion of section 5 of this measure states, "If the office finds a *serious danger* to the health and safety of the children receiving care at a child care facility, the office shall notify the facility of the specific reasons for the finding and may impose an emergency condition on the facility's certification without a hearing" (emphasis added). We have serious reservations about the dubious nature and interpretation of a serious danger. We believe that "serious danger" lends itself to broad interpretation of what the OCC could find harmful or injurious to children enrolled at child care centers.

For example, a playground is an inherently dangerous place. The Centers of Disease and Control and Prevention claim that more than 200,000 children are treated in emergency departments across the nation for playground-related injuries. Because playgrounds pose a serious danger to children, the provision becomes problematic for child care centers in Oregon. The structured time children spend on a playground is important to their growth and development because it aids in their resilience to overcome fear and anxiety. If this measure, as introduced, is enacted, we will seriously consider a prohibition of the use of our playground by the children enrolled at our facility.

I strongly encourage an alternative—or perhaps, a modification—of this provision. The provision could be, as an example, an *immediate and imminent danger* resulting in the potential to do serious or debilitating harm or death shall cause notification of an emergency condition by the OCC. An alternative such as the one proposed leaves little to interpretation and satisfies the reservations of those who operate or control a certified child care center.

We urge the committee to take these things into consideration before moving House Bill 2027 in order to continue to uphold the integrity of the Office of Child Care and the pedagogical spirit of certified child care centers around Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.