

TO: House Committee on Economic Development
John Lively, Chair

CC: Senator Tim Knopp, Representative Cheri Helt, Representative Jack Zika

RE: Economic & Workforce Impacts of the Statewide Childcare Shortage

I'm writing to share the impacts of the statewide childcare shortage on both my family and the company I work for. Living in Bend, my wife and I have struggled mightily to find childcare for our 8-month old daughter. We signed up for several local daycare waiting lists in January 2018, shortly after finding out we were expecting. We remain on those waiting lists 17 months later. We have found some limited in-home care from a private nanny two days a week. Fortunately, we were able to reduce my wife's work schedule to part-time and are flexible enough that we don't require full-time care. However, for us both to work full-time wouldn't be possible at the point given the lack of available full-time childcare in Bend.

I also experience the child care shortage professionally as well. I manage Human Resources at Hydro Flask in Bend and many of our staff of 90 have young children and are challenged to find adequate quality care for their children. This impacts their work through attendance challenges, lower staff engagement, higher turnover rates among new parents and the inability for spouses of staff to participate in the local workforce.

Anything the Committee can do to help alleviate the burden that this shortage is creating on the local economy and quality of life of Oregon families will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ryan Combellick
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