



February 4, 2020

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

TO: Honorable Representative Jeff Barker, Chair House Committee on Business and Labor  
Honorable Representatives Greg Baretto and Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chairs House Committee on  
Business and Labor

CC: House Committee on Business and Labor Committee Members

RE: Support for HB 4096

Dear Representatives,

In Central Oregon we are experiencing a childcare crisis with an insufficient supply of qualified child care providers. **We are currently meeting only 26 percent of the child care demand for children 0-5 years.** As part of a regional effort to help solve this child care crisis, we understand that at its center is the economic hardship of operating a quality child care in homes and centers across the state. Together, we have set our goal to help resolve the economic obstacles that are impeding more child care openings regionwide. We have set a collective goal to create 1,000 new child care openings in the region by the end of 2022. HB 4096 is a step toward addressing the disparity between what it costs to start and operate quality child care.

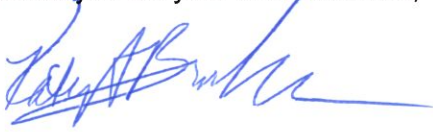
Awarding grants to child care facilities supporting large employers will support private investment in the health and viability of child care for the workforce. The bill's provision to create income tax credit for lessors of real property leased to certified child care facilities will help incentivize landlords to accept the difficulties in tenant improvements and other complications of allowing for child care in homes and commercial properties.

Child care operators and providers will benefit by the help to offset costs through the income tax credit for staff members who received 18 or more clock hours of training related to child care. The bill also incentivizes excellence in child care by creating income tax credits for child care facilities rated three stars or higher with quality rating and improvement system. The goal of the bill to include all residential structures to be used as certified or registered family child care homes will assist those who are providing this service from their residence -an option many families rely on for child care. The ability to provide child care in rural areas is even more desperate. This bill allows development of child care facilities as conditional use on lands zoned

for exclusive farm use where Oregon families have the most need and the least access. We also appreciate that HB 4096 moves toward improvements in protocol for false reporting of child abuse.

We urge you to pass HB 4096 as it is a thoughtful step towards creating additional child care slots throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration,



Katy Brooks  
President/CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce