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Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

From the Desk of Representative Anna Williams

CHILD CARE FOR OREGON COALITION URGES A “YES” VOTE ON HB 3073B

Access to child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. But Oregon is falling behind and our state’s inability to build a supply of quality, affordable, and equitable child care options for working families threatens the safe and healthy development of our most vulnerable young children.

Today, Oregon parents pay double what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends a family pay for child care (no more than 7% of your income), and single-parent families pay closer to five times that amount. Without affordable, accessible child care options, many parents are faced with little choice but to leave their jobs. In fact, nearly 80% of the 1.1 million people who left the job market in September 2020 were women.

Child care workers are disproportionately women of color, and their incredibly low wages reflect the combined institutional racism, sexism and devaluation they experience. Child care is primarily funded by families that cannot afford the true costs associated with care for children. While parents are unable to afford care, child care providers are not charging enough to cover the costs to provide care.

Young children need responsive and nurturing relationships with caregivers to stimulate their growing brains, but the current funding structure creates barriers to access, and as a result every one of Oregon’s 36 counties is a child care desert for at least one age group of children. That means there are 3+ children for every one child care spot.

HB 3073 will help streamline our state’s fractured early learning and child care system to create a coordinated child care spending strategy, and rewrite Oregon’s subsidy program to better serve children, parents, and child care providers. **We urge your support for HB 3073.**

