

March 10, 2021

Chair Power and Committee members,

I support HB 3109. I was the Mayor of Redmond then a Deschutes County Commissioner. Through that time, I tried to grow childcare. Children need a nurturing place to grow, families need a safe place for their children as they work, business needs employees. Communities need childcare to be healthy. As the Mayor, I made a plan for a Childcare Center. The cost of the building and operations made childcare unaffordable. We switched to support for homecare with a childcare support group to give them training and support. This worked but land use rules made homecare in residential areas difficult to site. The approval process is costly. Neighbors did not like change even when it was temporary. Childcare is hard work. A typical operation lasts about 5 years. HB 3109 takes away many of the barriers. A homeowner can make some extra money. A child has a safe place just like home. Parents can go back to work. Businesses have employees. Communities become healthy. Childcare is a no-brainer. Please support this bill. We need solutions. Representative Zika is standing up for his district and I appreciate this. Please do the same for your district. We all need childcare.

Sincerely,

Alan Unger

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