

April 14th, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From: Jennie Vinson
Re: Childcare funding

Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, and Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Jennie Vinson and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I am a business owner, a breast cancer survivor, and most importantly a mother. My only child is Oscar. He is 9 years old. He was almost 3 when I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer that required chemotherapy, mastectomy and multiple reconstructive surgeries and 7 weeks of radiation treatment. The care of our child was my number one priority. This is the case for most women battling any kind of long-term or chronic illness. There have been studies done that show that breast cancer patients under the age of 40 disproportionately decline radiation treatment, not because they don't have health insurance, but because they don't have reliable, affordable childcare. This is clearly unacceptable but all too common. Mothers like me are forced to make life and death decisions based on our ability to access care for our kids.

Creating childcare policies and legislation that allows for flexibility and consideration that all childcare may not fit into a standard 9-5 mold is critical for so many families who are facing a crisis. I urge you to pass HB3073 to fully fund the Employment Related Daycare program and prioritize the needs of families and care providers in our state. It is not only an issue of scheduling or finances, for many of us it is also a matter of life and death. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennie Vinson