

April 21, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From: Hannah Silver
Re: Childcare funding

Dear Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield,

My name is Hannah Silver and I live in Portland. I am not a parent, but I hope to be in the future. I am deeply invested in the status of childcare options in my community.

As a young professional, I am watching my friends begin to form families and embark on their childrearing adventures. It's harrowing to watch them panic as they realize that childcare options are few and far between. It's demoralizing to watch ambitious women step back from their careers because it simply "doesn't pencil" to both work and have a child in care outside the home. Given the volatile employment trends, my friends are working with some serious unpredictability. It is a scary time for parents. Ultimately, we all need options.

House Bill 3073 gives us options. It will mean that families can rest assured that no matter what happens, they will have a safety net that ensures their children will be in safe, loving spaces, should they choose to have their children in care. They give women freedom. They ensure that our care providers are treated with respect and given fair compensation for the enormous efforts they put forth in shaping our next generations.

Children are, quite simply, the future of our state, and they should be our priority. That is why I strongly urge you to support HB 3073, so that the Employment Related Daycare program remains funded, and our communities' children have their best shot at their future fulfillment and successes.

Sincerely,

Hannah Silver