

April 22, 2021

Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Maria Hernandez, I am a resident of Salem in District 5. I wanted to write to you all in support of funding for the childcare efforts organizations like PCUN are advocating for. I have 3 children and I want to express the importance of having access to childcare.

I want to share that it is really hard to find childcare especially right now during the pandemic. There are sites that are at max capacity, and caregivers who are no longer working because the pandemic has affected them in many ways.

Having access to affordable childcare should be Oregon's priority and it would help people who work many hours. I want to make sure that my kids are safe, and that when they go to childcare their needs are being met. We need to increase the amount of funds child care is receiving now. We also need to take care of our childcare providers that are not getting what they need. In the future I also hope that you all support bills that are in favor of accessible childcare for the communities you represent.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.