

Chair Power, Vice Chairs Reynolds and Zika, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bills 2503 and 3073. I am submitting this testimony on my behalf. I am an African American child care provider with 20 plus years of experience from Portland, OR.

Compensation:

The cost of living goes up yearly, but child care providers compensation increases occur at long intervals. The last increase was in 2019. It was years in the making.

When I was employed in corporate America, there were annual compensation increases. Child care providers make the American economy function, yet they are not compensated commensurate to the importance of their work.

Child care rates:

Full time hours are 136 to 241

Part time hours are 63 to 135

Hourly:

Infant

\$6.00

Toddler

\$6.00

Preschool

\$5.05

School age

\$4.70

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I refuse to provide care at hourly rates due to the rates being offensive and insulting. I have a 15-year-old neighbor who baby sits and earns \$15 hourly.

In regard to the full time and part time hours: If a parent works 63 hours and another works 135, the rate is the same. Clearly, providers are providing several hours of care without being compensated. There should be additional rates from 64 to 135, and 137 to 241 hours.

The lack of yearly compensation increases, and non-payment for additional hours, are a reflection on child care providers looked upon as babysitters, as opposed to the professionals we are. It is pathetic that inexperienced teenagers are compensated at a higher rate. It is also a reflection of child care providers not being valued for our work.

ERDC/DPU

Low-income parents are constantly left in financial dire straits due to the policies of ERDC/DPU and case workers. I pride myself on providing high-quality daycare for low-income parents. Most live below the poverty line and cannot afford their co-pays. I have lost thousands of dollars providing care to parents who cannot afford their co-pays. If they receive a pay increase, it increases co-pays, so low-income parents cannot gain financial stability. This impacts provider's income and puts providers in financial peril.

Please pass HB 2503 and HB 3073 so that providers don't have to sacrifice their financial stability to provide a valuable service to their communities.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe