

February 15th, 2021

To: The House Early Childhood Committee

From: Jennifer Fang

Re: Support of HB 2503 and HB 3073

Dear Chair Karin Power and Vice-Chairs Lisa Renyolds & Jack Zika,

My name is Jennifer Fang and I live in Portland, Oregon. Knowing that we would need childcare after maternity leave, my spouse and I signed up for five daycare waiting lists, all of which charged a fee, during my third trimester of pregnancy. My child did not get off any wait list until he was 18 months old. For the first three years of my child's life, between 65-85% of my salary as a museum administrator and college instructor has gone to pay for childcare. It is unconscionable how expensive childcare costs are, how little childcare providers are paid, and how little support families are given by local, state, and federal governments.

Our child has been out of daycare since last March because of the pandemic. Yet, despite the astronomical costs, we continue to pay full tuition to 'hold' a spot for him for when we feel it is safe for him to return, or when our employers require us to return to working in our offices. The way we see it, we can continue to pay daycare tuition now or face potentially worse financial consequences if we are required to return to the office and are unable to secure childcare.

Combined with the general economic effects of the pandemic, the continued payment of daycare tuition for a service that has gone unused has created a huge financial burden for our family.

While we are able to make ends meet, we have very little set aside for retirement and general savings. It is infuriating that parents who require childcare at this time are not left with better options.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fang