



Testimony
Oregon State House Early Childhood Committee
HB 3073 Early Learning Authority & Childcare-Employment Related Day Care
February 22, 2021
Capitol Building, Salem, OR

Participant for the record:

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Chair Power, Vice Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Zika, Representative Lively, Representative Neron, Representative Schouten, Representative Weber, and Representative Wright, my name is Martha Brooks. I am the State Director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and ReadyNation, a bipartisan, non-profit organization of senior law enforcement and business leaders with over 200 members in Oregon. Our law enforcement and business leaders have long understood that to get children started on the right path in life, help them get ready for and graduate from school, and become a productive part of our workforce, investments need to be made all the way along the continuum of their lives. That includes how Oregon governs and administers our early childhood and childcare programs. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and ReadyNation **support HB 3073** that will create the Early Learning Authority as a separate state agency and will improve the administration of childcare and other early childhood programs.

Oregon has long been a leader in early childhood and HB 3073 is just one more step in keeping and making Oregon a leader for young children and families. It is time for Oregon to establish a stand-alone agency to address all the needs of early childhood. HB 3073 takes the Early Learning Division and turns it into the Early Learning Authority. By making this significant step, Oregon will advance the Early Learning Authority's ability to be better equipped to align and coordinate programs such as home visiting, childcare, prekindergarten and more, making meaningful impacts for children and families.

HB 3073 is also another positive change for childcare. We support the changes in HB 3073 that would transfer the administration of Employment Related Day Care from the Oregon Department of Human Resources to the Oregon Early Learning Authority. This change allows for a more seamless system of childcare for families participating in Employment Related Day Care. As Oregon has progressed in early childhood programs, it has become clear that adjustments need to be made to systems for better coordination and better services. This move is one of them.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and ReadyNation strongly urge you to support and pass HB 3073. An agency dedicated to our smallest citizens is one of the most important things the legislature can do to help guarantee all of our children get a right start in life that puts them on the path to success.



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