

Submitter: Rosareli Sotelo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood

Measure: HB4005

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4005. My name is Rosareli Sotelo, I live in Salem and I am a parent of 4 children.

I'm writing to support HB 4005 because I know that access to child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. The pandemic has made clear that without care work, no other work can happen.

With the pandemic childcare has been difficult to achieve, there are not enough spaces where my younger kids can go. I do not speak English very well and there is a barrier with accessing providers that can understand me. There is also fear of my children contracting the virus because of the limited space that childcare sites have. Another barrier is not having enough money to pay for childcare. I am a farmworker and I can barely make ends meet every month.

HB 4005 will support providers and child care affordability for subsidy-eligible families by increasing subsidy rates to the 90th percentile of the 2020 child care market rate.

It's time for the Legislature to recognize that a government-funded childcare infrastructure would benefit not just working parents, but also the childcare providers who struggle to stay financially afloat while providing essential services that are the backbone of our economy. Please support HB 4005.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rosareli Sotelo