

Submitter: Patricia Lincoln
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Patricia Lincoln, Portland, Multnomah County
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: patricia.d.haggerty@gmail.com

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 Patricia Lincoln, I live in Multnomah County, and I am a parent of a two-month-old.

Every Oregon family deserves access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care, and every child care provider should be paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do. And it shouldn't fall on parents or providers to foot the bill for an adequate system that supports our economy.

If we want to continue flourishing and growing as a state, we need to invest in essential infrastructure that allows Oregonians to thrive.

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.

The pandemic has only exacerbated Oregon's childcare crisis. This is especially devastating for Oregon's Black families, and we deserve better.

As a new mother, it's disappointing that there aren't many options to support families like mine. While I am privileged to work from home, many Black mothers are scrambling to find reliable and affordable child care options as they continue to work either from home or in their workplaces. According to the National Domestic Workers Alliance, in all but two states in the country, the average costs of child care exceed 20 percent of Black women's median annual earnings.

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.

Support Oregon's child care systems development through HB 3073 Implementation with increased capacity to stand up the new Department of Early Learning and Care. Delay fire code requirements on in-home child care providers to prioritize building new provider capacity while still keeping kids safe.

As a parent that works from home, I know that without care work, no other work can happen.

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,
Patricia Lincoln