

Submitter: Tjorven Sievers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Tjorven Sievers, Corvallis, Benton County
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: tjorven.sievers@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 Tjorven Sievers and I live in Corvallis.

I'm writing to support HB 4005 because I know that access to child care is crucial for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. The pandemic has made clear that without care work, no other work can happen. Parents across the country have borne the brunt of the economic fallout in the past two years, because without access to affordable childcare. It is incredibly hard to maintain a living wage, while also caring for your children.

My husband and I wish to have children in the near future, but the cost and lack of access to childcare is making it difficult for us to start a family, while also being economically secure. We have been forced to postpone this very personal decision, because we have seen how friends have struggled to simultaneously provide the care their children need to grow and to make a living. At the same time, I also have friends, who work as childcare providers and who are forced to leave the profession they are so passionate about, because their wages do not allow them to provide for their own families.

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.

Oregon cannot afford to not invest in child care, especially in the midst of an ongoing

pandemic. Providers should be properly compensated for their work, and families should have access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally relevant childcare. Please invest in child care and support HB 4005.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tjorven Sievers