

Submitter: Luz Quevedo  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood  
Measure: HB4005

Feb 2, 2022

To: House Early Childhood Committee  
Re: Child Care Funding and HB 4005

Dear Chair Karin Power and Vice Chairs Lisa Reynolds and Jack Zika:

My name is Luz Quevedo and I am the mother to 2 ½ year-old Milan.

I write to offer support for House Bill 4005 because the child care crisis that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic is now a state of emergency for parents, providers, and kids across Oregon. My family, who I need to take care of, has had to decide to pay for basic things like rent, food and utilities or child care because the cost of child care is very high in our state. When I started to look for child care for my baby, it was so overwhelming.. Because we are a low income family, we have to carefully consider our ability to pay for the care we want for our son.

I applied for ERDC - however, even after qualifying for it, it has been so difficult to find a childcare provider or center that is taking children. Each time I have called I have been told to get on a waiting list. There simply is not enough child care supply, especially for low-income families.

I understand that the current public health risk makes it hard for everyone to make ends meet both as families seeking quality services and for those providing it. The current system is not serving our current communities' needs. For families like mine, the hoops and hurdles we have to undertake in order to be able to go to work and provide for our family's very basic needs has been so strenuous and stressful. I have often found myself considering not working. However when I look at our financial situation it is just not an option and I feel desperate and frustrated to the point of bursting into tears from it all.

Child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. 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. It should not have to be this hard- having a beautiful baby is something I had longed for for many years. Having a fulfilling life without worrying about our basic needs should not have to be part of this beautiful part of parenting life. We can take an important step to get there with House Bill 4005. I urge you to

support these important bill.

Sincerely,

Luz Quevedo

Salem, Oregon 97305