

Submitter: Jyoni Tetsuro Shuler  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood  
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

House Committee on Early Childhood  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4005

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Zika, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4005. My name is Jyoni Tetsuro Shuler, I live in Portland, and I serve as Research Analyst with Our Children Oregon.

As outlined in our latest issue brief "Oregon's Child Care Conundrum" (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DmfiGBAQ2HT7cyOg6BbW97wWx7cXBEdhVaD33PDKkyk>), the child care landscape in Oregon is complex, underfunded, and marked by ongoing struggles for caregivers, providers, and children alike. The COVID-19 pandemic has only further exacerbated these difficulties and worsened disparities across racial/ethnic and income lines, which is where smart, targeted policy investments are necessary to remedy the root causes of our child care sector. This includes expanding the availability of child care slots, bolstering subsidies for working families, investing in the child care workforce, encouraging the incorporation of care facilities in new and existing infrastructure, and more.

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 it clear that without care work, no other work can happen.

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.

Our state 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.

Parents need the peace of mind that their providers have enough funding and resources to be safe, and providers need a clear plan and to be properly compensated. I urge you to pass HB 4005 to take a small step in securing the funding our child care system needs.

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,  
Jyoni Tetsuro Shuler