

Submitter: Sandy Robinson
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 Sandy Robinson. I live in Sherwood, OR and I have been a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for six years. Prior to moving to OR in 2016, I was a volunteer in MN for five years.

I have seen firsthand the crucial role child care has in helping to keep families together. When DHS opens a case parents are required to complete court-ordered case plans to regain custody of their child/ren. These plans typically include securing safe housing and employment while also engaging in services such as parenting classes and counseling. Compliance with the case plan requires access to child care. Many families do not have a family member to help with child care, thus making compliance all but impossible.

I'm writing to support HB 4005 because I know that access to child care is necessary to not only keep struggling families together but to help them thrive in the future.

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,
Sandy Robinson