

Submitter: Huda Yusuf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Measure: SB1591

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the committee, My name is Huda Yusuf and I am a mother of 3 children, who are all under 4 years old. I am writing in support of SB 1591.

When I had my second child, I was not able to work anymore. I needed to stay home because I could not afford child care for my two children. My biggest challenge is finding child care providers that are affordable and accepting additional children. Many of the more affordable provider options I have found do not have space to take on more children and the waitlists are long. This is so discouraging for me as a parent because I want and need to return to work. I know that many other families are dealing with these same issues.

As parents, we have to struggle with juggling work, child care expenses, paying rent and bills, and spending time with our children. Parents, especially mothers, should not be forced to choose between working and caring for their children. I believe that we need to increase the number of child care slots available in order to have more accessibility for the families in desperate need of care for their children.

Child care availability and accessibility have become huge issues that need the support and action from our state legislators. SB 1591 will support Oregon's in-home child care providers by allowing them to increase capacity to care for more children. Please vote yes on SB 1591.

Sincerely,
Huda Yusuf