

Submitter: Thomas Busse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2727

I urge the committee be specifically charged with 1. a review of the professional licensing burden of early care providers, 2. considering the roles faith-based early care providers play in increasing access to these services.

According to the Institute of Justice's November 2022 "License to Work" report, Oregon has the 7th worst occupational licensing regime in the United States, and the #1 most burdensome for preschool teachers. The professional licensure burden causes 2,920 days of work lost and \$812 lost to fees for a very low-income profession where wages fail to cover the cost of student loans. Instead of requiring a 4-year degree, preschool teachers could be trained with a community college certificate program. In fact, preschool teachers are not even licensed in Utah.

Second, many churches and synagogues provide daycare and afterschool care, and representative from the faith community on this task force would provide valuable input in the role faith-based institutions play in this area - especially in terms of facilities.