



To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services
From: Coalition of Communities of Color
Date: January 24, 2023
RE: In Support of House Bills 2727 and HB 3005

Chair Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Hoa Nguyen and Anna Scharf, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2727 and HB 3005. My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice.

Quality, accessible, and affordable child care is a necessity for Oregon's working families. The success of our economy depends on our state's ability to cultivate a successful child care system for all Oregonians. However, there is currently a key gap that prevents Oregon's child care system from being able to serve all families that are seeking services. This gap is a lack of physical space and a lack of funding to maintain facilities for child care providers to do their jobs and provide the much-needed care that families rely on.

The lack of quality infrastructure to house child care services means that there are less options for Oregon families to access these services and contributes to the child care deserts we see across the state, wherein families must face long waitlists, limited availability, and are often turned away completely from accessing child care.

HB 2727 is a crucial step to examine the root causes of citing a new child care business and the factors that are contributing to this lack of physical space locally and statewide. It will create a workgroup that can study Oregon's current laws and regulations and additionally make comprehensive recommendations about how to improve the supply of child care facilities moving forward.

Equally important, HB 3005 will create an Early Childhood Infrastructure Fund to ensure child care and childhood education providers can access the funding they need for both purchasing and maintaining quality facilities.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I ask that you **support HB 2727 and HB 3005** to strengthen Oregon's child care system, increase access for families, and help make room for every child who needs care.

Thank you,
Sol Mora
Advocacy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color