

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

**RE: Support for Protecting Child Care Providers in Rentals (SB 599)**

Distinguished Legislators,

**Investments in early childhood are critical to support early brain development, health and wellbeing of children, families, and communities, and the broader economic wellbeing of our state.** Oregon has made progress supporting families so children can reach their full potential. This progress reflects a promise to build a strong early learning and care system that is aligned and connected across partner agencies.

2023 brings an opportunity for Oregon legislators to keep their promise to children and families. Keeping this promise means acting on policies and investments built with and for families most impacted by systemic inequities to strengthen the quality of programs and services, and ensure every child and family has what they need. Supporting children and families and strengthening child care is also integral to Oregon's economy.

Building on recent momentum requires action this session to expand early childhood facilities infrastructure, create accessible workforce pathways, strengthen behavioral health, and reach more children and families with quality early learning and care.

**Home-based child care providers are critical to Oregon's child care landscape** - they more often provide evening, weekend, and overnight care, infant-toddler care, care in rural and remote communities, and linguistically diverse and culturally specific care.

**Home based child care providers in rentals are vulnerable - and, therefore, so are the children and families they serve.** Many home-based child providers operate their small businesses in homes they rent with the support of their landlord. However, if their landlord changes their mind, sells the property to another landlord, or sells the home and providers need to find a new rental, these child care programs are in jeopardy. **This issue disproportionately impacts women of color and immigrant or refugee women**, who are more likely to live in rental homes.

**The Early Childhood Coalition supports SB 599, which will provide needed protections to child care providers operating in rental homes.** This bill would ensure that home-based child care providers cannot be denied rental just because they are child care providers. It also allows landlords the option to ensure there is liability protection in place if desired. This bill is a consensus product of collaborative work between providers and landlords.

**Child care businesses are strong tenants.** They are well regulated by the Early Learning Division to ensure their homes are clean and in good repair and children are well cared for.

Sincerely,

AFSCME  
Albina Head Start  
Children's Institute  
Child Care for Oregon  
Coalition of Communities of Color  
FACT Oregon  
Family Forward Oregon  
Happy Go Lucky Child Care  
Healthy Families Oregon Coalition  
Latino Network  
Metropolitan Family Service  
Multnomah County

Nurse-Family Partnership  
Oregon Association for the Education of  
Young Children (ORAEYC)  
Oregon Child Care Alliance  
Oregon Early Learning Hub Association  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Relief Nurseries Association  
Reach Out & Read  
Our Children Oregon  
Immigrant and Refugee Community  
Organization (IRCO)