



February 1, 2023

TO: Senate Housing and Development Committee
FROM: The Children's Agenda
RE: Support of SB 599

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

The Children's Agenda, convened by Our Children Oregon, brings together ~127 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to advancing whole-child advocacy and improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2023 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families. **This year, investing in early childhood and child care is a top priority of the 2023 Children's Agenda.** In 2021, legislation to ensure child care providers can operate in rentals was part of the 2021 Children's Agenda, and we are returning in 2023 by supporting SB 599.

Prior to the pandemic, all 36 Oregon counties were considered child care deserts for infants and toddlers, and 27 counties were considered child care deserts for preschool-aged children. The status quo isn't working for providers, and it certainly isn't working for children. This bill was inspired by childcare providers working in their rental homes raising this issue. Home-based child care helps meet a critical child care need in Oregon. Yet currently, there are no protections for renters to operate child care businesses from their homes. These providers are disproportionately women, low-income, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and immigrants and refugees.

Every child care provider should have the right to provide care in any residential property, regardless if they are renters or owners. Those who run their business from their homes provide long-term benefits including healthy child development, increased cognitive abilities, and improved language development. Alongside the benefits for children and parents, providers will have the advantage of flexibility and one-on-one attention. That's why **the Children's Agenda strongly supports SB 599.** This bill would ensure that home-based child care providers cannot be denied a lease just because they are child care providers. It also allows landlords the option to ensure there is liability protection in place if desired.

Protections are greatly needed for home-based child care providers who rent their homes. These fair and reasonable protections are an important way to expand child care access, generate more culturally-specific child care settings, and improve economic opportunities for

renters. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of SB 599.

Sincerely,

Children's Institute
 APANO
 CCS of Mid-Willamette Valley
 Coalition of Communities of Color
 Clackamas Women's Services
 FACT Oregon
 Families First Parent Resource Center
 Family Forward Oregon
 Friends of Outdoor School
 IRCO
 Neighborhood Partnerships
 Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
 Oregon AG's Sexual Assault Task Force
 Oregon AEYC
 Oregon CASA Network
 Oregon Center for Public Policy
 Oregon Food Bank
 Oregon Kids Read
 Oregon Primary Care Association
 Oregon Resource Family Alliance
 Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
 Our Children Oregon
 Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
 Pro-Choice Oregon
 Reach Out and Read Northwest
 SEIU 503
 Southern Oregon Success
 Washington County Kids



Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children



Catholic Community Services

