

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Feb. 1, 2023

Chair Jama, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Multifamily NW's support of SB 599 with you today. As the largest association of housing providers in the state, Multifamily NW members collectively manage more than 275,000 units throughout Oregon and southwest Washington.

As you know, Oregonians are facing several serious challenges, from rising public safety concerns to food deserts to housing instability. This committee knows these issues well.

At the top of that list is the limited availability of quality childcare for Oregon families. I believe Republicans and Democrats, rural Oregonians and urban residents, housing providers and renters can all agree – access to affordable childcare is a critical poverty reduction tool that we must address in order to make progress on the other crises facing our state.

Simply put, when parents have access to affordable childcare, we know that they will have more stability in their jobs which leads to better economic outcomes throughout our communities. And the social and intellectual benefits to their children – especially to those that have been traditionally underserved – last a lifetime.

Our association initially had concerns about SB 599. However, throughout the development of this legislation, the sponsors consulted housing providers and adjusted the language to allow this bill to not only be something that we could live with, but something that we support.

The bill as amended will ensure that housing providers can maintain the safety and viability of their operations and provide support to their tenants who wish to establish a properly licensed childcare facility in their home. This bill is a win-win-win: Housing providers, renters, and Oregon children will benefit from its passage.

SB 599 is sound public policy that was developed with input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. We truly hope this committee requires the same level of collaboration in all legislation that comes before you.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Gary Fisher
Deputy Executive Director