

February 22, 2023

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services

From: Nadia Hasan (Beaverton / Washington County)

Re: Child Care House Bills 2504, 2991, and 3029

Email: nadia@nadiahasan.com

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nyugen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bills 2504, 2991 and 3026. My name is Nadia Hasan and I live in Beaverton Oregon - I am the parent of three children in Washington County and write to you as an educator, mother and community organizer.

As I have navigated life with children, I am always reminded that the systems that exist have not been to serve my family and I. From the moment I had my daughter and couldn't figure out how to go back to work and manage daycare to the times I've had to get added to yet another waitlist in hopes my kids will get care, it's been an exhausting experience. We know Bills 2504, 2991 and 3029 are critical in helping make childcare accessible for happy children, thriving families and ultimately, a strong economy.

More specifically, as a member of the Asian American and Muslim American community, I implore you to consider ways to support culturally appropriate childcare for families. Today, my daughter sits in a toddler class (although she is 3 ½ years old) because the next class up is full. The specific school she attends provides culturally-specific learning in Arabic while giving her exposure to our Asian-American values. The teachers look like us and are an essential part of our community. *I cannot imagine our kids going to any other school.*

Parents deserve peace of mind that child care is affordable, reasonable and culturally responsive to their needs. As our society deals with racial reckoning, I want to urge the importance of inclusion and belonging which is why culturally-responsive practices are critical to our state. We must prioritize investments in this area as we imagine how it can positively impact Oregon's economy.

I urge you to pass these bills to ensure we stop leaving working families behind.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nadia Hasan

Note: While I serve on the Beaverton City Council, I am writing this as an individual who cares deeply about how we make a better impact in our community around childcare.