

Submitter: Nancy Gamino

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2991

Dear Chair Lisa Reynolds and Vice-Chairs Hoa Nguyen & Anna Scharf,

My name is Nancy Gamino and I live in Salem. I have three children who are 17, 13 and 6 years old. When my first son was born, I felt the anxiety of having to look for child care for my son. I worked at a dry cleaners making \$ 7.95 per hour and I would check with family and friends to see if they could take care of my son. I knew that the childcare that I thought was the best was not within our budget. We concluded that it was not worth 75% of my salary to leave my son in an uncertified or educational place, so we decided it was better to stay at home. This brought other economic and social obstacles to our young family. My husband increased 3 hours of work, to replace a part of the salary that I lost. This affected our family, reducing the time he had to be with us and connect with our new baby. These were very difficult times with a lot of stress.

Today, the child care situation is so much worse even than it was when my son was born. Cost is not the only major problem – even finding child care is a huge challenge. There simply isn't enough child care. Yet it is very difficult for child care workers to get certified, and even when they do they often can't afford to stay in the field. This is even more true for Spanish-speaking child care workers.

Parents deserve good and quality options for early education and childcare. Child care workers deserve good, quality jobs with wages that they can afford to live on. Please support HB 2504, HB 2991 and HB 3029.

Sincerely,
Nancy Gamino
Keizer, OR 97303