

February 22, 2023

Representative Lisa Reynolds, Chair
House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House bills 3029, 2991 and 2504

Dear Chair Reynolds and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services:

You are hearing testimony today on three bills addressing child care workforce issues: House Bills 3029, 2991 and 2504. I write on behalf of Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to urge your careful consideration of this legislation.

As you know well, 81% of Oregon's rural communities are designated as child care deserts. If Oregon is to move forward in addressing this profound crisis in the availability of child care we must address barriers to recruitment and retention of a qualified, diverse workforce. Those barriers include woefully inadequate compensation and lack of access to culturally-appropriate training and career pathways. The bills before you today offer promising pathways for progress.

OCF has invested in training and education for early learning professionals for over 20 years, including through support for scholarships for training and education. We are deeply familiar with challenges and opportunities in the early childhood workforce space, and hope you will consider us a partner and resource in this important work.

Sincerely,



Senior Education Strategy and Policy Advisor

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