

Submitter: Catherine Lutes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2726

February 27,2023

Chair Reynolds and Vice Chair Nguyen and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

As the pandemic has made clear, child care is essential infrastructure that makes all other work in our country possible. We here in Jackson and Jefferson Counties live in a child care “desert” where there are definitely not enough affordable child care options.

This is why I am writing to you in support of HB 2726, so that these counties can pilot a program for low-income women, women who are pregnant, and for children up to the age of 5. We would like to see these mothers be a viable part of Oregon’s workforce, and unless affordable, good, nurturing childcare is available, these potential members of the workforce need to stay home. This would also help student mothers at Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College stay in school and become educated, contributing members of our society. Looking at the long term, we have to increase our university graduation rates, so that our future workforce is able to deal with an ever changing world. Oregon’s future depends on it!

Please vote to support HB 2726.

Thank you,  
Catherine Lutes  
Ashland