



March 1, 2023

Early Childhood and Human Services Committee

**RE: Support HB 2717 Outdoor Preschool Licensing Pilot Bill**

Dear Honorable Early Childhood and Human Services Committee:

My name is Nicole Cunningham and I am the Executive Director for Prevent Child Abuse Oregon. Our organization is an active partner and supporter of the comprehensive Children's Agenda. This agenda is offered by Our Children Oregon and actively endorsed by a multitude of partners including PCAO.

We are writing to urge you to support House Bill 2717 to establish an Outdoor Preschool Bill. This bill has support in counties across Oregon and can increase childcare capacity and access for families. Outdoor preschools offer unique physical, cognitive, and social development benefits unique from a traditional indoor environment. Yet many families lack access to outdoor and nature-based experiences, and these inequities often fall across socioeconomic and racial lines.

Licensing outdoor preschools is a simple way for the state to increase capacity and create more equitable and accessible childcare options for all families. We need lawmakers to act by passing legislation to expand safe, equitable access to outdoor preschools as another form of high-quality early childhood education.

We urge your support for HB 2717. Diverse and robust childcare options are critical to childhood success and we see these investments as supporting primary prevention.

We would appreciate your support for increased childcare capacity and access by supporting the Outdoor Preschool Licensure bill and urging your fellow lawmakers to do the same!

Sincerely,

Nicole Cunningham  
nicole@preventchildabuseoregon.org  
PO Box 185, Salem OR, 97308

Board of Directors

Mickey Lansing-Luehrs, **Chair**  
*Program & Policy Consultant*  
Mary Ratliff, **Vice-Chair**  
*Director*  
Protect Our Children  
Vickie Fleming, **Secretary**  
*Policy Consultant*  
Kevin Campbell, **Treasurer**  
*Cattle Rancher*

Alonzo Chadwick  
*Executive Director*  
BRAVO Youth Orchestras  
Donalda Dodson, MPH, RN  
*Executive Director*  
Oregon Child Dev. Coalition  
Evelyn Nores  
*Executive Director*  
Douglas CARES, Retired  
Fritz Graham  
*Field Representative*  
U.S Senator Ron Wyden  
Heather Friend  
*Chief Operations Officer*  
Clackamas Federal Credit Union  
Karmen Fore  
*Executive Director*  
Oregon Solutions  
Marissa G. Alvarado  
*Creative Assistant*  
Social Media Bliss  
Mike Caldwell  
*Brigadier General*  
Oregon National Guard, Retired  
Orlando Perez  
*Pediatric Registered Nurse*  
Legacy Health System.  
Wendy Hill  
*Manager Retired*  
Child Welfare & Self Sufficiency  
Oregon Department of Human Services

MISSION: Strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

VISION: All children live in safe homes and supportive communities, regardless of race, class, culture, or geography.