

Submitter: Susan Bender Phelps

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB858

Senators, I ask that you pass SB858 out of committee so the Senate and the House can vote on it. Throughout Oregon, we have a shortage of affordable and accessible quality childcare and out of school time program options. We cannot wait for Federal funding that may never come to address this issue. Parents and employers are deeply affected by this situation. My husband and I own a small winery. We have an employee with young children. When she cannot access childcare, it throws her family into an emergency. Either she or her husband, must leave work or call in absent to care for their children. We just have 4 employees. I also own a corporate training and executive coaching business. One of my clients has a business in Clackamas that employs 18 people. She has young children and five of her employees do as well. When childcare is unavailable they also struggle to keep the business going on those days. Small businesses are the economic engine of our state. We must make it possible for them and their employees to keep working. Our counties are strapped for money. The state is strapped for money. I firmly believe that this budget neutral bill will empower some of our communities to solve this problem locally. It's not a solution for all. It will still take voter approval to make it happen for the communities that choose this option. Passing SB858 will give those communities an effective way to meet the needs in their communities. Please vote YES.