

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Childcare in the Semiconductor Industry

March 6, 2023

Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum, Vice-Chairs Knopp and Wallan, and Members of the Committee.

For the record, I am Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26.

As our state works to prepare for expansion of the semiconductor industry we must be thoughtful about how we can set ourselves up for growth that delivers equitable outcomes for Oregonians. Last week, the U.S Department of Commerce issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for businesses interested in applying for CHIPS Act funding. As Sen. Anderson underscored, this announcement made it clear that the administration is prioritizing semiconductor projects that include robust plans for providing childcare to their workforce as they decide how to invest nearly \$40 billion into the industry.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 8.1% of electrical and electronics engineers are women and only 8.5% of mechanical engineers are women. For construction and extraction occupations, the Bureau reports that only 4.2% of the workforce is made up of women.¹ While childcare is not the only barrier for women to join the semiconductor workforce, we know that women are disproportionately relied on as caregivers and this can be a major hurdle for us to join a workforce that is not prepared to offer access to onsite, co-located, or nearby childcare facilities.² It is so important for us to very carefully address any existing zoning barriers that prevent semiconductor manufacturers from creating these facilities.

The childcare requirements set by the Commerce Dept, and the work you all are doing to make Oregon more attractive to the semiconductor industry, together have the potential to reduce these gender inequities here in Oregon. As a member of the House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee I stand ready to partner with you all to

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm>

² <https://www.businessinsider.com/7-things-keeping-women-out-of-science-2013-10>

create opportunities for economic growth that supports families with high wages and access to childcare. I would encourage you all to review and consider signing onto the following bills and supporting these POPS:

- HB 2727, HB 3005 – Childcare Infrastructure
- HB 3029, HB 2991 – Supporting Workforce Development
- HB 3027; DELC POPs 101, 102 and 104 – Increase Affordability and Access

Thank you all for your leadership and collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain