

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Janelle Bynum, and I am the state representative for House District 39. I am excited to be championing HB 2468 this session to help support in-home childcare providers across our state, and assist in expanding childcare services for Oregonians from all walks of life.

As an employer, I understand firsthand how hard it is for working families to find affordable childcare in Oregon. In-home childcare providers offer flexible hours to families who work outside the traditional 9-5, Monday through Friday hours — operating around the clock in every childcare desert across the state, especially in rural areas where childcare centers are less prevalent.

Many of these in-home providers are women of color and women who speak a language other than English, stepping up to serve in these low-paying, highly-critical jobs when others are not willing or able. These providers are such important, valuable business owners, opening up their own homes in service to their communities, and it is critical that we do more to support their work.

Unfortunately, many of these providers must navigate the complex ins and outs of business ownership on their own. I have heard from these providers that one of the major barriers they face is having to traverse regulations, rules and state processes on their own — without the financial ability to hire HR specialists, payroll specialists or lawyers when their business owners run into questions, concerns or delays with the Department of Early Learning and Child Care.

HB 2468 is a solution to many of the concerns I've heard from constituents and community stakeholders. This bill offers simple fixes for providers who are struggling with issues like receiving late payments from the state, difficulties navigating disruptive facilities inspections, accessing legal representation when needed, and working with outdated regulations that do not make sense for their in-home care settings.

These departmental delays, disruptions and regulatory burdens are getting in the way of these providers' ability to provide care. HB 2468 is a collaborative effort to solve some of these challenges with simple solutions that will increase slots, resolve disruptions to care, and offer childcare providers more of the support they deserve.

I'm grateful for the Legislature's continued commitment to solving the childcare crisis and urge your support for HB 2468. It is a critical next step in this work to not only support families, but Oregon's larger economy whose future strength relies on the power of stable households with ready access to child care services.