

Submitter: Norma Moreno

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Senator Steiner and Rep Sanchez, Members of the Committee:

My name is Norma Moreno, and I am a parent of X adult children and a 10 year old girl. I am also a provider in my own in-home childcare center that provides care to 6-8 children at any given time.

About 2 years ago when my youngest daughter was 8 I realized the need for me to be more present in my daughter's daily life. After 12 years working in an office in HR with a more than an hour's commute I could no longer bear to sacrifice time with my last born. My other children did not get the opportunity to have me as much because there was no better way. Until I found what seemed a better way.

I went into a new venture and started an in-home childcare center. I appreciate the additional time I could be there for my daughter but it is not without sacrifice. As a provider in a rural community my compensation is not the same as it would be in a bigger city. However I am to provide the same level of care. We are paid less but have the same basic needs and caring for some of the most vulnerable families in our state. It has been so hard to grow my business and at times I am barely making ends meet each month.

It is urgent that you do all that is possible including accessing savings from the state to help stabilize and support childcare for all families and providers in the state. Families need access to affordable quality child care so they can be financially secure and thrive. My dream is to grow my business and be financially stable in the near future, while continuing to provide quality accessible childcare, but I can't do this without investment from the state. Child care is critically important and it needs your support. Please support providers like myself and fund child care this legislative session. If you need to use state savings funding to do it, know that we support you!

Thank you,
Norma Moreno
McMinnville, OR