



May 3, 2023

TO: House Early Childhood and Human Services  
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda  
RE: Support of SB 599

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

The Children's Agenda, convened by Our Children Oregon, brings together ~130 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to advancing whole-child advocacy and improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2023 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families. **This year, investing in early childhood and child care is a top priority of the 2023 Children's Agenda.** In 2021, legislation to ensure child care providers can operate in rentals was part of the 2021 Children's Agenda, and we are returning in 2023 by supporting SB 599.

Prior to the pandemic, all 36 Oregon counties were considered child care deserts for infants and toddlers, and 27 counties were considered child care deserts for preschool-aged children. The status quo isn't working for providers, and it certainly isn't working for children. This bill was inspired by childcare providers working in their rental homes raising this issue. Home-based child care helps meet a critical child care need in Oregon. Yet currently, there are no protections for renters to operate child care businesses from their homes. These providers are disproportionately women, low-income, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and immigrants and refugees.

Every child care provider should have the right to provide care in any residential property, regardless if they are renters or owners. Those who run their business from their homes provide long-term benefits including healthy child development, increased cognitive abilities, and improved language development. Alongside the benefits for children and parents, providers will have the advantage of flexibility and one-on-one attention. That's why **the Children's Agenda strongly supports SB 599.** This bill would ensure that home-based child care providers cannot be denied a lease just because they are child care providers. It also allows landlords the option to ensure there is liability protection in place if desired.

Protections are greatly needed for home-based child care providers who rent their homes.

These fair and reasonable protections are an important way to expand child care access, generate more culturally-specific child care settings, and improve economic opportunities for renters. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of SB 599.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon  
Children's Institute  
APANO  
CCS of Mid-Willamette Valley  
Coalition of Communities of Color  
Clackamas Women's Services  
FACT Oregon  
Families First Parent Resource Center  
Family Forward Oregon  
Friends of Outdoor School  
IRCO  
Neighborhood Partnerships  
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries  
Oregon AG's Sexual Assault Task Force

Oregon AEYC  
Oregon CASA Network  
Oregon Center for Public Policy  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Kids Read  
Oregon Primary Care Association  
Oregon Resource Family Alliance  
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance  
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon  
Pro-Choice Oregon  
Reach Out and Read Northwest  
SEIU 503  
Southern Oregon Success  
Washington County Kids