

May 3, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
From: Irma Ramirez, Hillsboro  
Re: Child Care Funding

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

My name is Irma Ramirez and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon.

I am writing to urge you to prioritize funding for childcare in the state budget because the child care crisis that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic is still a state of emergency for parents, providers, and kids across Oregon.

Our family has had to make difficult choices as we struggle to pay for bills. Due to the cost of child care I have become the sole breadwinner on a teacher salary. My husband had to quit his job and get a night part time job so we can pay for part time daycare because we can not afford full time childcare and we are just below the poverty guidelines.

We do not qualify for government assistance as we are considering above the poverty guidelines but we can't afford our basic needs .

It is time to access our state savings accounts and invest them in programs that will help Oregonians NOW. I urge you all to use savings funds and invest in child care this session. Our state cannot afford to *not* invest in child care. Oregon has two savings accounts, which according to news outlets are at historically high levels.

Child care is the work that makes all other work possible. The state needs to recognize this and fund it. **Please prioritize child care in the budget.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Irma Ramirez