



To: Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
From: Relief Nursery, Inc.
Date: May 3, 2023
Re: In Support of \$100 million Lottery Bond Authorization for Child Care,
Early Childhood Infrastructure and HB 3005

Dear Chair Girod, Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

On behalf of Relief Nursery, the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, and the Children's Institute and partners, I urge your support for a significant investment in child care and early childhood facility expansion and infrastructure.

There is a critical need for early childhood facilities in communities across Oregon, especially for our state's most vulnerable children and families.

During recent years, we have seen significant increases in food insecurity, family stress levels and the number of children presenting with social, emotional and developmental issues. This, at the same time that an even greater number of these families need support.

In Springfield, we seek to expand therapeutic early childhood classrooms and respite child care to meet the increased needs of children and families in our community. Enrollment at our Springfield site is up 10% in just the past three years. All families served at Relief Nursery are extreme low income and have multiple family stressors that are correlated with child abuse and neglect.

A child's first three years of life are critical to emotional and intellectual development. Without investment in early childhood infrastructure, the children and families that need us the most will be left without access to enriching child care and early learning environments.

Please approve \$100 million for shovel ready child care infrastructure projects such as Relief Nursery's, and please pass House Bill 3005 to seed a Child Care Infrastructure Fund at Business Oregon.

Sincerely,


Kelly Sutherland

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