



Family Relief Nursery

May 5, 2023

Good afternoon, Chair Girod, Chair Holvey and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction.

My name is Peggy Whalen and I am the Executive Director of South Lane Family Nursery dba: Family Relief Nursery with sites in the rural communities of Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Drain.

As you know, there is a critical need for early childhood facilities in communities across Oregon. Specifically, in Cottage Grove, we seek to expand our current facility. We currently serve approximately 440 children each year at all three sites. We have literally run out of room for staff, by constructing an adjacent building with additional offices along with a classroom, we will be able to meet the increased needs of children and families in our community. By having more office space and another classroom we can hire more teachers and double how many children and families are served in Cottage Grove. All of the families served at Family Relief Nursery not only have fewer resources since we are located in a rural community, but also are low income and have multiple stressors that put them at a higher risk of child abuse and neglect. These families with young children need our help

Please approve HB 5030 which will designate \$100 million for shovel ready child care infrastructure projects such as Family Relief Nursery's 1 million dollar request, and also pass House Bill 3005 to seed a Child Care Infrastructure Fund at Business Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Peggy Whalen