



**To:** House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business  
**Re:** HB 4098, CHIPS Child Care Fun

February 7, 2024

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Diehl, Vice Chair Nguyen, and members of the committee:  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 4098** establishing the CHIPS Child Care Fund. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations. Our mission includes addressing the socioeconomic disparities experienced by individuals, families, and communities of color; and to engage in collective action for social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

In July 2022, Congress passed the CHIPS Act of 2022 to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing, design and research, fortify the economy, and reinforce America's chip supply chains. The CHIPS Act and subsequent CHIPS Child Care guidance has been clear that business grant applicants will be judged in part on their plan to address child care supply and affordability for their facility workers and construction workers. However, this has proven to be a challenge for business applicants to conceive and implement their own child care program for construction workers, affecting the ability for these businesses to access CHIPS Act funding.

Given the federal guidelines for child care under the CHIPS Act, we believe that the most effective solution to this problem is to build off current structures in our state government in order to implement a CHIPS child care program. Oregon's Apprenticeship Related Child Care is currently doing this with Federal Highway Transportation funds. Expanding this BOLI-run program with CHIPS funds, Oregon can target construction trades apprentices and workers with the skills to build CHIPS facilities. The second existing system Oregon can utilize to address supply for this workforce is the Child Care Infrastructure Fund at Business Oregon. A funding allocation for growing child care supply in the geographic areas and types of care most needed for our construction workforce would meet the considerations put forth in the CHIPS workforce guidance.

This legislation would have a positive impact in strengthening child care programs for facility workers and construction workers, especially for workers of color. [A 2021 study by the Oregon Employment Department](#) found that, "The industries with the greatest share of ethnic diversity include agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (33.5% Hispanic or Latino employment); accommodation and food services (17.1%); administrative and waste services (15.9%); manufacturing (15.4%); and construction (13.1%)." This study shows that there is a significant population of Latine workers in manufacturing and construction, and this legislation would help to connect those workers with child care services.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I urge you to support HB 4098 to help strengthen Oregon's child care infrastructure.

Thank you,  
Jenny Lee, Deputy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color