



From: The Office of Representative Hoa Nguyen
Subject: **Support for HB 4158-1.**

February 7, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of HCECHS

For the record, My name is Representative Hoa Nguyen and I represent House District 48. In recognition of the crucial role that access to affordable and high-quality childcare plays in supporting working families and fostering economic growth, I am proud to introduce a comprehensive policy aimed at expanding childcare options for small businesses in not only my district, but for the entirety of the state.

Why you care about child care

- Neighborhood House
- Clackamas County, in the district, heard that facilities expansion has been a huge challenge.

Through strategic partnerships with **Family Forward, DELC, Business Oregon and other Oregon community partners**, we have introduced this updated language that would ensure Oregon's small centers and in-home providers aren't being left out.

The **challenge with the legislation** was that certain child care providers **felt that the policy was not as accessible to small centers as the larger ones due to the restrictions from lottery bonds as well as the language that was implicated in HB 3005**. These providers are often the providers that serve rural areas, provide culturally/linguistically appropriate care to children with disabilities, and operate during nights and weekends (odd hours). The presenters today will speak to these challenges as well as how HB-4158-1 will positively affect childcare providers in our State. We are committed to creating a more accessible, equitable, and sustainable childcare infrastructure that benefits both employers and employees alike.

HB 4158 makes necessary updates to language in HB 3005 that passed out of the legislature in 2023 to create investments in and improvements to access for Oregon child care facilities.

- The bill will **appropriate \$4.5 million from the general fund** to the currently existing Child Care Infrastructure Fund (CCIF) housed at Business Oregon to support home-based and small center providers (defined as licensed to serve 75 or fewer children).
- **Appropriate an additional \$500,000 from the general fund** to be used for technical assistance that is to be administered by the Department of Early Learning & Care.

In the base bill, we wanted to set up a distinct fund from the Childcare Infrastructure Fund (CCIF), and with the -1 amendment, we are instead appropriating the \$5 million within the CCIF specifically for small center and in-home providers to ensure that they are not being forgotten and left behind as childcare demands are increasing and businesses are expanding in Oregon.

The amendment was a collaboration between Business Oregon and DELC that ensures that this program will run efficiently. We are asking for your support for HB 4158 so that we can provide dedicated and flexible funds to support these providers in starting or expanding their businesses as this will be critical to building the mixed-delivery care system parents and employers need.