

February 7, 2025

Dear Representative Zach Hudson and the members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee,

I am writing to urge your support HB 3011, which allocates \$20 million in critical funding to build Oregon's early childhood education workforce. As the Director of a large child development center serving the staff and faculty of the University of Oregon, I see first hand the effects of the childcare crisis in Oregon. On a daily basis, I receive calls from parents desperate to return to work who cannot find childcare in the community. Our waitlist for new families is at least 18 months long. We are also deeply affected by the lack of qualified teachers; in our most recent hiring process, only 3 of the 18 applicants met *minimum* qualifications, and only 1 met preferred qualifications. We are often short-staffed, which means that administrators are in the classrooms changing diapers instead of in the office doing our work. We need more options for childcare in the community, and we need trained teachers to staff those positions. The Workforce Development measures in HB 3011 supports student recruitment, retention, and graduation to build that trained staff.

HB 3011 will build Oregon early childhood education workforce by making a \$20M investment in Oregon's public university and community college infrastructure. Funding would support campus childcare centers that provide hands-on experience to students earning ECE degrees and educational programs based on the ECE degrees produced. Your support for HB 3011 and the *workforce behind the workforce* helps build the future for Oregon's children and families.

Best,



Tamara Clark

CC: Representative Lisa Fragala

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