

February 10, 2025

TO: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development
FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3008

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO). I am writing on behalf of The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, which brings together a coalition of more than 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing in Oregon. **House Bill 3008 is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda** and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

As a coalition, we recognize that child care is the workforce behind the workforce.

Parents can't work or go to school if their children don't have access to quality, affordable child care. House Bill 3008 will support and expand the state's current and future child care workforce. Through continued investment in the Child Care Recognition Payment Program and apprenticeship programs across the state, this will support child care workers by:

- Continuing to provide financial support to child care workers during economic uncertainty;
- Expanding the number of quality child care workers who have both education and hands-on experience;
- Supporting child care businesses that are struggling to retain and recruit quality workers.

As a coalition, we believe that HB 3008 aligns with our core values of promoting quality, affordability, and accessibility in child care; we cannot have this without a strong, diverse, and supported workforce.

We anticipate that HB 3008 will have several specific benefits for Oregon families and child care businesses, including:

- Recognizing the value and the work of child care workers by providing additional financial support;
- Increasing pathways to enter into the child care industry;

- Strengthening the child care industry overall, which has downstream positive impacts on workforce participation, economic security for working families, and early literacy and school readiness.

We urge your support for HB 3008 as a critical piece of a child care workforce package.

Sincerely,
Our Children Oregon
Family Forward
Baby Blues Connection
Black Parent Initiative
Children's Institute
Housing Oregon
Latino Network
Next Up Action Fund
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Reach Out and Read NW
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland
Washington County Kids

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)