

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**RE: Child Care Workforce Package (HB 3008)**

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala & Harbick,

**In 2025, providers, families, and advocates from across Oregon call on the Legislature to choose children.** Proactive investments in early childhood services can break cycles of poverty, decrease maternal and infant mortality, and ensure long-term stability for children and families across Oregon. When we choose children, we improve people's lives and bend the cost curve on spending driven by crises. Prioritizing children builds a more just and promising future for all.

**One way to choose children is to invest in their caregivers.** Children benefit when their caregivers are fairly compensated and have reduced stress. Furthermore, child care providers are 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. HB 3008 takes 3 needed steps to support the early learning and child care workforce:

- It proposes needed investment in child care provider compensation by re-funding a recognition payment program that has been successfully in place for over a year;
- It follows up on Oregon's commitment to develop a plan to ensure home-based providers have access to affordable health insurance; and
- It supports sustainability of two early learning & care apprenticeship programs that are meeting a significant workforce need in their regions.

**To support children, families, and Oregon's economy, the 2025 legislature needs to make a package of investments in child care affordability, infrastructure, and workforce.** Each piece depends on the others to be effective and address Oregon's child care crisis..

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

Sincerely,

Adelante Mujeres

Ballmer Institute

Children's Institute

Happy Go Lucky Child Care

Education Explorers

FACT Oregon

Families First Child Care Center

Fighting for Success Foundation

First Children's Finance

Home Childcare Essentials

IRCO

Latino Network

Metropolitan Family Service

Neighborhood House

Northwest Regional ESD

Nurse-Family Partnership

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

ORAEYC

Oregon Head Start Association

Oregon Pediatric Society

Our Children Oregon

Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Reach Out & Read

Social Venture Partners Portland

Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

Yamhill Community Care