

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**RE: Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund (HB 3011)**

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala & Harbick,

Early childhood is the foundation for all future learning and life experiences. **For Oregon to have a brighter future, the 2025 legislature must make progress for our youngest residents.** Ensuring children have access to quality early learning & child care, we increase the immediate economic well-being of their families and set a trajectory for success in school and in life. When we choose children, we improve people's lives and bend the cost curve on spending driven by crises.

**A critical component of supporting quality early learning & child care is building a skilled early childhood workforce.** Children benefit when their caregivers have a strong foundation in child development and extensive quality practicum placements.

HB 3011 would address challenges in Oregon's Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce by investing \$20M in publicly funded post-secondary ECE degree programs and campus ECE centers, which serve as learning labs for students pursuing ECE degrees and related degrees including special education, early intervention, psychology, and human physiology.

Oregon faces a significant shortage of accessible, affordable, quality early learning & child care options. This is an economic barrier holding our state back from expanding the workforce. When we support early childhood education, we support family financial stability, economic development, and community growth.

**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 3011 as a critical piece of a child care workforce package.**

Sincerely,

Adelante Mujeres

Ballmer Institute

Children's Institute

FACT Oregon

First Children's Finance

Families First Child Care Center

Happy Go Lucky Child Care

IRCO

Metropolitan Family Service

Neighborhood House

Northwest Regional ESD

Nurse-Family Partnership

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

ORAEYC

Oregon Head Start Association

Our Children Oregon

Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Reach Out & Read

Southern Oregon Early Learning Services

Yamhill Community Care

Social Venture Partners Portland