

Submitter: Victoria Kovalenko

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3008

To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Child Care for Oregon

Date: February 11, 2025

RE: In opposition of HB 3008

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, members of the committee:

As a child care worker of 12 years, I found the one time \$500 payment to be a joke and a waste of tax payer money. There is a need for good quality childcare workers. This felt like throwing breadcrumbs at a problem.

I am all for government financial assistance to support childcare businesses to pay higher wages and pay for adequate vacation time. But paying a onetime payment of \$500 to each childcare worker seems like a waste and does not address the issue of low wages in the industry. I would like to see legislation actually give tax breaks and/financial assistance to childcare centers and staff that incentivize employee RETENTION and quality programs with a good work culture.

Any bill that just throws money at a problem without actually solving the root of the problem seems ineffective and should not be supported. When working to address the issues related to childcare workers, please consider the actual issues, like low wages, poor benefits, poor work culture, poorly trained staff. Fixing THESE issues will fix the industry.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Victoria Kovalenko