

Submitter: Caitlynn Garliyo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3008

Date: February 12, 2025

RE: In Support of HB 3008

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

As a child care worker of 13 years, I am writing to the committee today to express my strong support for HB 3008. I have worked in private kindergarten, ABA, Preschools, Special Ed, and Afterschool Programs. This legislation has made such a significant difference in the lives of other child care workers including myself, child care businesses, and the families we work with.

As a childcare worker, I personally understand the hardships workers face in this industry. Low wages have made me work paycheck to paycheck consistently. The severe lack of benefits forces us to decide whether we pay for insurance or just bet on it and hope we don't need a doctor. However I continue to choose child care because I was used and abused as a child. I give voice to those who are finding theirs. I support milestones while working class families spend hours to support the food and clothes for their children. I bring fun and happiness to children who are not able to be with their working families. I create relationships with families who feel they are safe and taken care of in my care.

House Bill 3008 helps us address these problems. By continuing to invest in the Child Care Recognition Payment Program and child care apprenticeship programs across the state, this legislation will support child care workers like myself by providing financial support during economic uncertainty, expanding pathways and hands-on training for those interested in the industry without having to take on debt, and supporting child care businesses that are struggling to recruit and retain workers. A \$500 payment might not sound like such a difference but to me and my household it was such a blessing. I was able to make payments on bills, buy food I typically pass at grocery stores because of the price, and I was able to save 100\$ to put into my savings for when I'm again, working paycheck to paycheck. This small \$500 was so helpful for my family as well as the working child care families I share this with. To hear from me that there was a grant going around sparked so much interest and hope.

As a child care worker, I believe that HB 3008 aligns with my core values of promoting quality, affordability, and accessibility in child care. We cannot have these things without a strong, diverse, and supported workforce. By investing in the workforce, we can ensure that all workers are supported in their careers while providers like me are guaranteed high-quality workers to care for young Oregonians. In conclusion, I highly suggest you to support House Bill 3008. This legislation has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of Oregon child care workers

like me. By investing in the workforce, we can ensure that all workers are supported in their careers and show strength in those who consistently CHOOSE to be a child care worker. We don't do it for the pay. We do it because of the connections we make, the families we help, and the children who are greatly effected by being fleeced hours in childcare due to our system.

Thank you for your consideration and time.