

Testimony in Support of HB3008

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Nicole L., and I am a dedicated preschool teacher in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB3008 and the continuation of the \$500 retention bonus for child care providers.

Child care is essential work, yet it remains one of the most undervalued professions. As a provider, I take great pride in creating a nurturing, engaging, and developmentally enriching environment for young children. However, the financial challenges of working in this field are undeniable. The \$500 child care fund I received this year made a meaningful difference for me. It helped offset the rising costs of essential supplies for my classroom and supported my ability to continue professional development in early childhood education.

With the high costs of living, many child care professionals struggle to remain in the field, despite their passion and dedication. If Oregon wants to retain and grow a strong, skilled child care workforce, continued investment is crucial. This bonus is a step toward recognizing and supporting the invaluable work child care providers do every day.

I urge you to support HB3008 and ensure that child care providers receive the financial recognition and career development support needed to sustain this critical workforce. Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's children, families, and child care professionals.

Sincerely,

Nicole L.

Preschool Teacher, Oregon