



OREGON COAST
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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To esteem Chair Hudson and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 3011. As a former early childhood educator, who worked in the field for 17 years, and currently the lead faculty at Oregon Coast Community College this bill is crucial to our community.

I represent a small rural community college without an on-site childcare facility. Lincoln County has been identified as a severe childcare desert.¹ Our college's small size and rural location have limited our ability to explore the financial costs of opening and operating an on-site childcare facility.

In our Early Childhood Education program, we teach theories and best practices, yet we lack a controlled environment where students can actively apply these concepts. We are fortunate to have community partners who provide practicum opportunities for our students. The external settings limit our ability to model and develop best practices effectively.

The opportunity to have childcare on-site will benefit our students, college, and our community. The ability to access childcare at school will provide the opportunity for students to succeed academically. As an educator I am preparing my students to become educators of the 21st century. HB 3011 is not only an investment in community colleges and universities but empowering students, strengthening communities, and fostering the development of the next generation of educators.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Oscar Juárez

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¹ https://health.oregonstate.edu/sites/health.oregonstate.edu/files/early-learners/pdf/research/oregons_child_care_deserts_2022.pdf