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On Behalf Of: Rogue Community College
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3011

It is one of the greatest disconnects in American society: the importance of a child's first five years versus how the work of early care and education is valued. We are among the 25 million parents of young children in the US who have felt the struggle to access and afford quality child care, as well as the heartbreak of seeing talented early educators leave the field for better paying jobs at coffee shops and delivery services.

There is a common misperception that early care and education is just a form of "babysitting." We believe the invisibility of the work helps perpetuate a system that pays poverty wages and offers little professional respect – that we cannot value what we cannot see. A mentality shift is needed about when "real learning" starts, the skill and expertise early educators bring to their work, and what voices we should be listening to for ideas about how to fix our broken child care system.

Thank you