

Submitter: Alexa Battrick

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 Support of HB 3008

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

I am writing to the committee today to express my strong support for HB 3008. I have worked in childcare in many various settings since before I was even in high school - which has been over 30 years of work more or less... I have devoted many years of my life, my career, my own funds and have taken time from my own family to support those in my career and it was really nice to be appreciate for this line of work when I received this money.

As a childcare worker and a single mom, I know firsthand the hardships workers face in this industry and myself included - we don't do it for the money, we care about the people and families we impact. Although having low wages does make it difficult to make ends meet, and in my current position only working part time means lack of benefits which means I rely on the government to ensure that I have health insurance and care for myself and my children. It makes me feel insufficient as a mother that I cannot make enough and work in a field that takes care of my family when all I have ever done in my employment field is take care of children and families.

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. For me personally this check meant that I was able to provide Christmas and birthday gifts for my children after a divorce that left me with nearly nothing and I didn't have to ask for help. I was really grateful for such a timely blessing.

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 urge 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 while providers are guaranteed high-quality workers to care for young Oregonians.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Alexa Anne Battrick